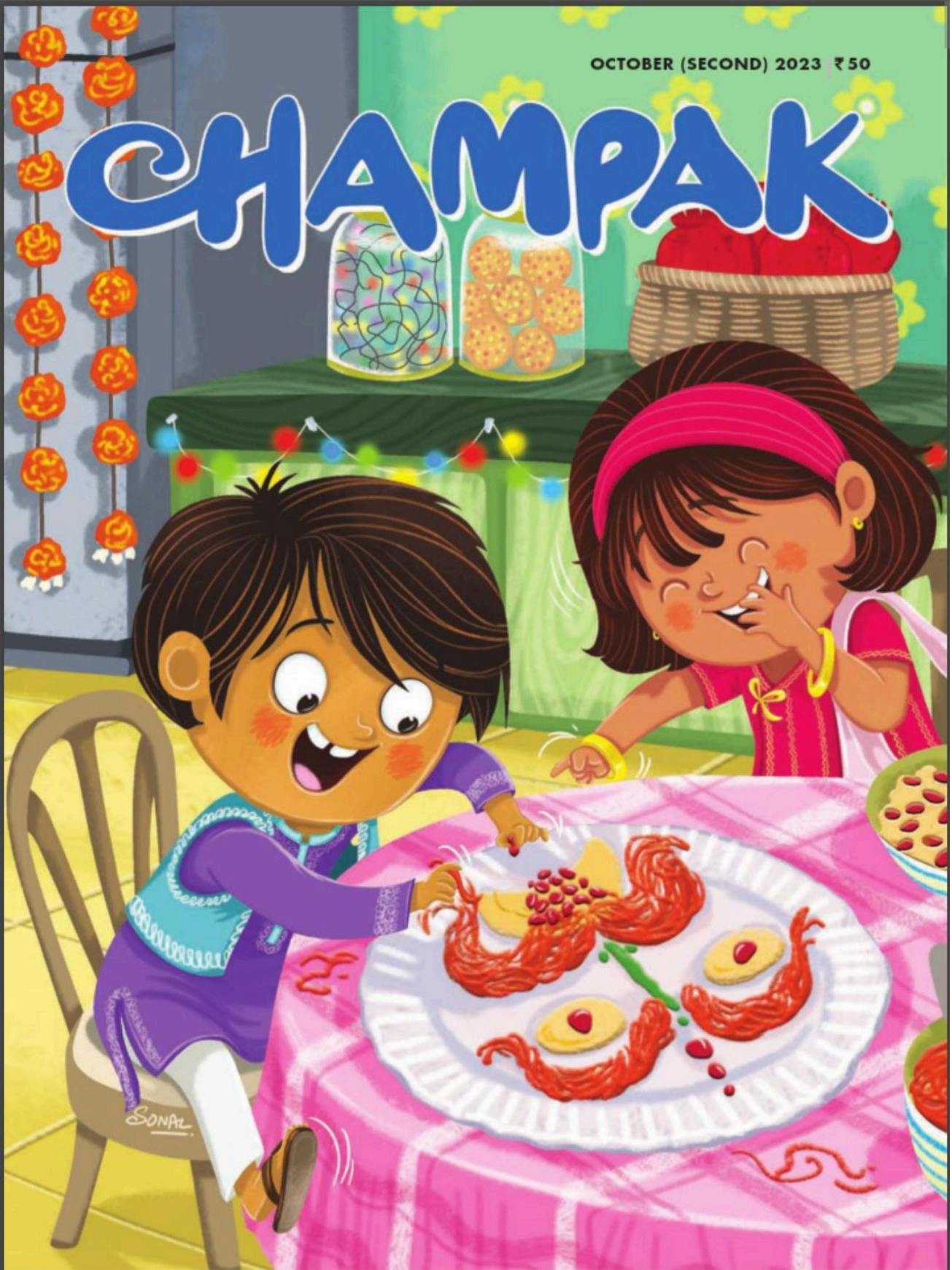


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# CHAMPAK



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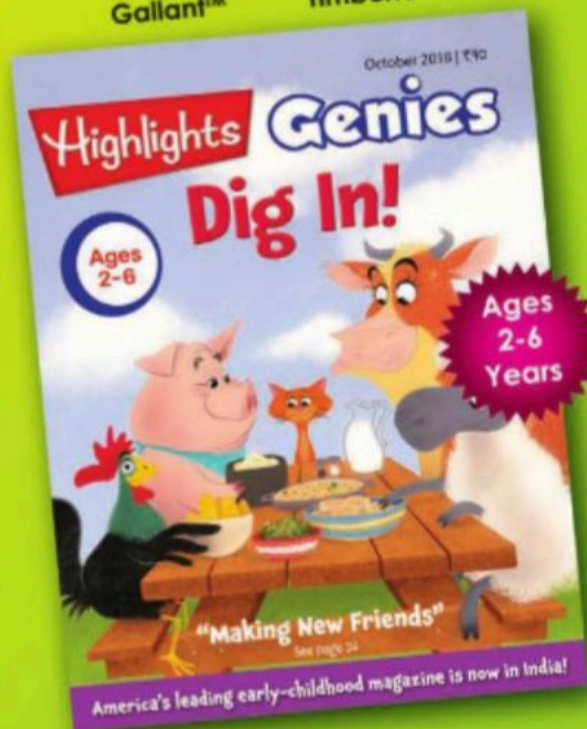
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OCTOBER (SECOND) 2023

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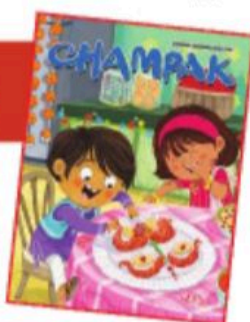
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9 days of Navratri leads to Dussehra. Let's celebrate with laughter, mischief and love this festive season. Have a memorable Navratri and Dussehra!



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# The School Ramlila

Rajkumar Dwivedi

“Children, how about organising the Ramlila on our school grounds this year?” asked the Principal during the Saturday cultural programme.

The children cheered, and the teachers also agreed to the proposal. The Hindi teacher, Ashok, was given the responsibility of making all the preparations.

On Monday, Ashok Sir asked the teachers and students to assemble so that actors for the different roles could be decided. Someone wanted to be Taraka, a Yaksha princess-turned-demoness, and another agreed to be old Vishwamitra, a sage.

Someone was ready to play the role of Kumbhakarna, a powerful demon and younger brother of Ravan, who loved to eat and sleep a lot.

Other students and teachers agreed to play the parts of characters like Vibhishan, Ahilya, Dashratha, Lakshman, Bharat, Janak, Sita, Hanuman and Parshuram. Nobody volunteered for the roles of Ram and Ravan.

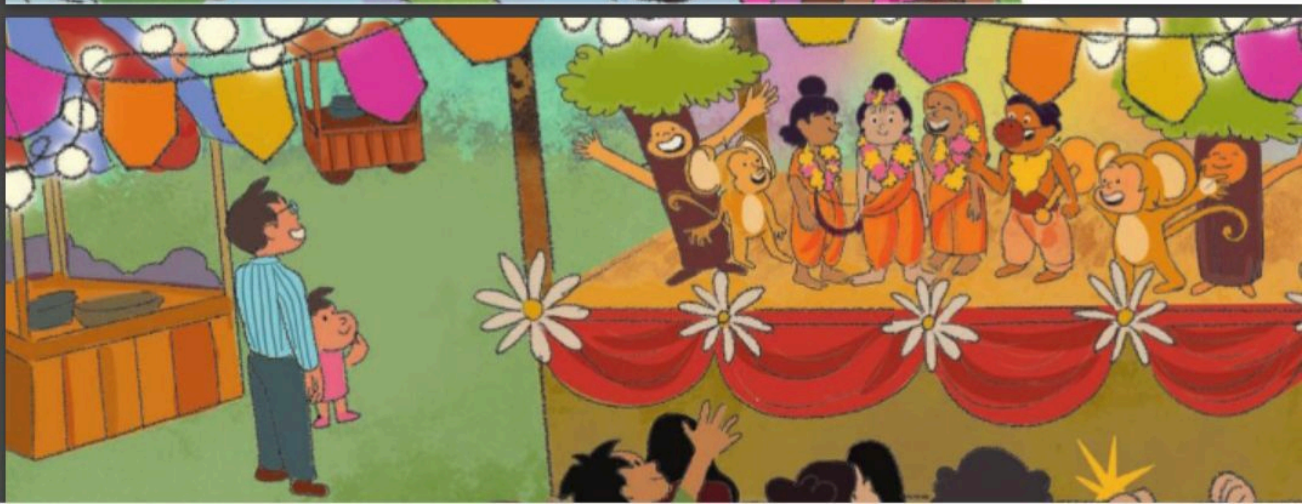
“So, children, who is going to play Ram’s role?” asked the teacher.

The children did not utter a word because they knew that Ashok Sir would play Ravan’s part. He used to be Ravan in the town’s Ramlila group, too, therefore no teacher had offered to play Ravan’s part.

Ashok Sir was very strict. The children were afraid of getting good beating from him in class if they attacked him with arrows while playing Ram. At last, Aviram courageously offered to play Ram’s role.

The town Ramlila group was consulted and arrangements were made for the actors to perfect their dialogue delivery and acting techniques.

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Costumes, crowns, cardboard swords, bows and arrows were ordered.

Everybody was so enthusiastic that within a month all the preparations were made. The actors put in a lot of effort. Watching the rehearsals, the Principal was delighted with their acting abilities.

On the day of the Ramlila, the schoolchildren, their parents, and the townspeople came to watch it. The viewers applauded the children's superb performances.

All through the nine days, children dressed as monkeys, bears, and demons roamed around and entertained everybody.

Aviram, who was portraying the role of Ram, was thrilled. He had been telling all his friends, "Don't miss the killing of Ravan. Ashok Sir hits me in class when

I don't do my homework, so now, I will attack him with arrows and even it out. It's going to be a lot of fun!"

"Won't you feel scared of attacking Ashok Sir?" asked his friends.

"Not at all. You see, I am Ram in the play, so he shouldn't mind my attacks," declared Aviram.

The night of Dussehra arrived. The school ground was crowded. Political leaders and officials had also been invited.

The Ramlila began and soon Ram and Ravan confronted each other. The battle began. Ram let off a shower of arrows in Ravan's direction. It was a keen contest between the two, and thrilling indeed to watch. The fearsome Ravan showed off his might, but Ram was not frightened in the least.



The children in the front applauded. "Come on, take revenge for all the beatings you got!" a child cried out. The audience burst into loud laughter.

Finally, with a final arrow aimed at his belly, Ravan was destroyed. A burning arrow let off by Ram set the effigy of Ravan aflame as well. The message of good being victorious over evil was delivered. Aviram's performance was appreciated a lot.

When the school reopened, Aviram's friends thought he would get a good thrashing from Ashok Sir for fighting convincingly on the stage.

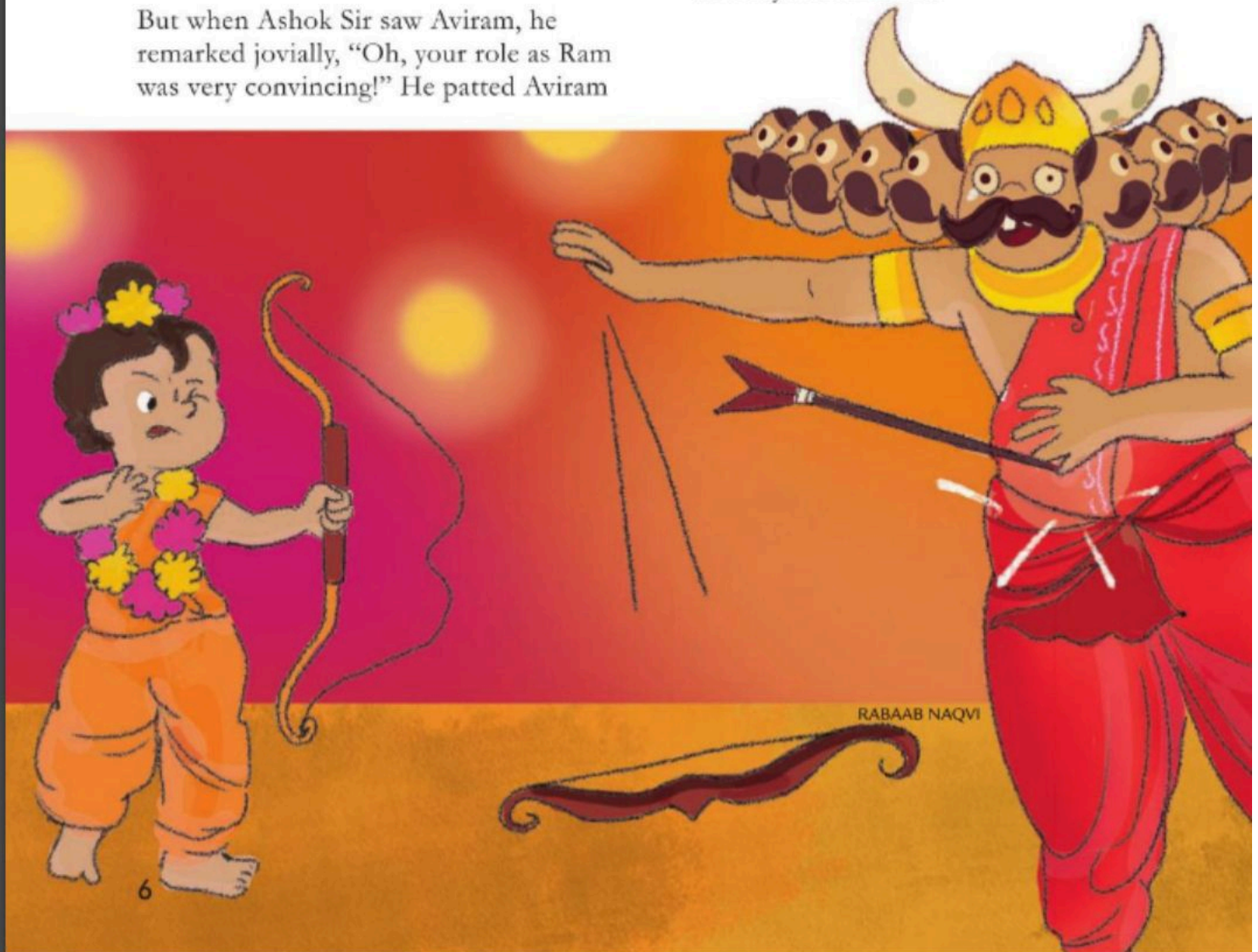
But when Ashok Sir saw Aviram, he remarked jovially, "Oh, your role as Ram was very convincing!" He patted Aviram

on the back and complimented him for his dramatic talents.

"Thank you, Sir. I was simply avenging all the beatings I have got over the past year for not doing my homework," Aviram responded with a smile.

"Is that so? Maybe, I won't scold you if you actually do your homework. Just like your performance, if you decide to get things done and practice, you will start seeing results," replied Ashok Sir.

Aviram agreed with his teacher. He decided that he would try and do better in school. The school Ramlila turned out to be truly memorable ●





# Garba Jumble

Geeta, Rashmi and Eva have joined a Garba party, but their steps are mismatched with the rest of the others. Read the clues below, follow each of their steps in the given direction, and draw the new arrangement.

Everyone took 1 step forward, 2 steps back.

Geeta (in red) took 2 steps forward, 1 step back

Rashmi (in yellow) took 3 steps forward, 2 steps back

Eva (in orange) took 2 steps back, 3 steps forward

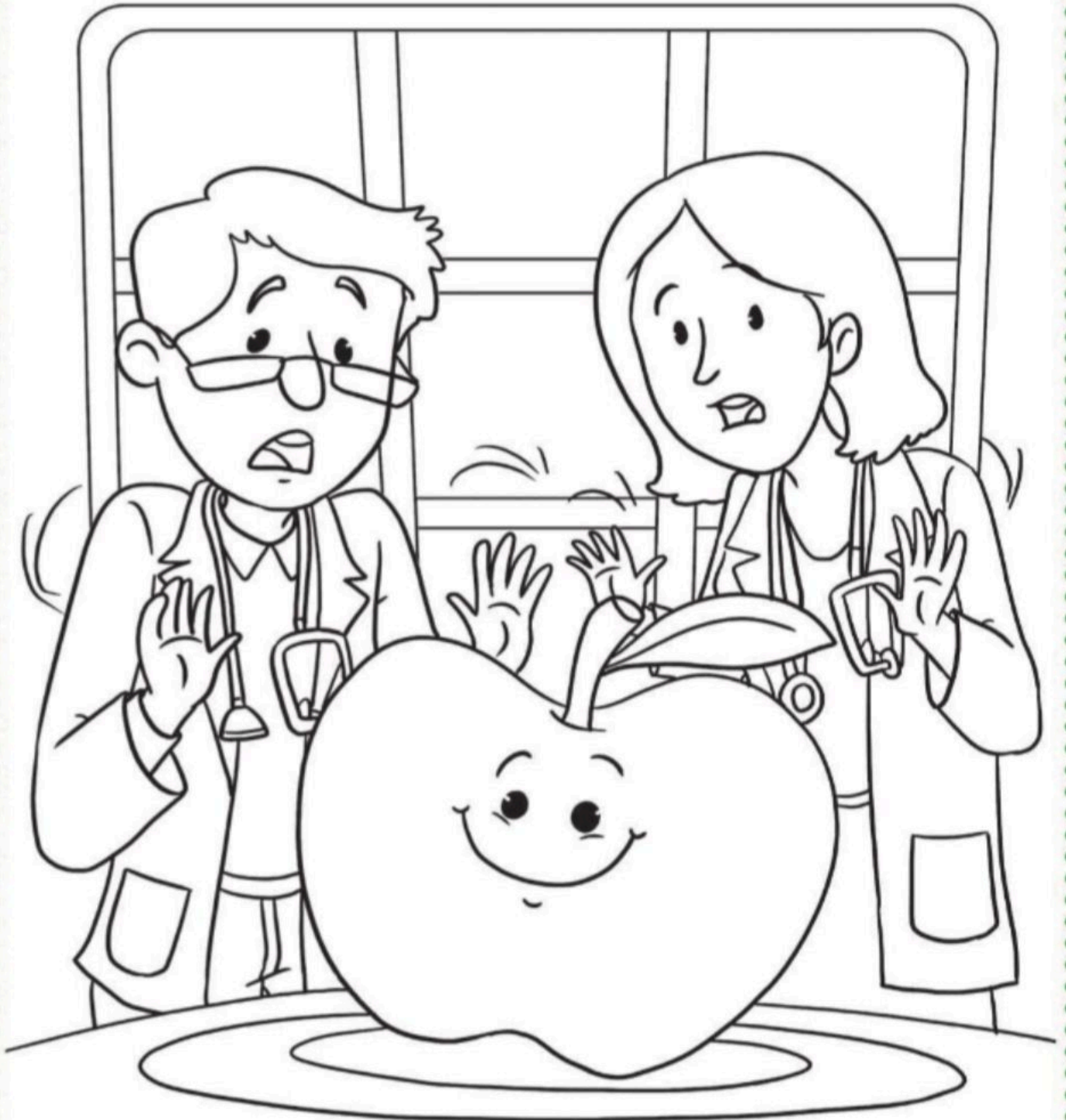


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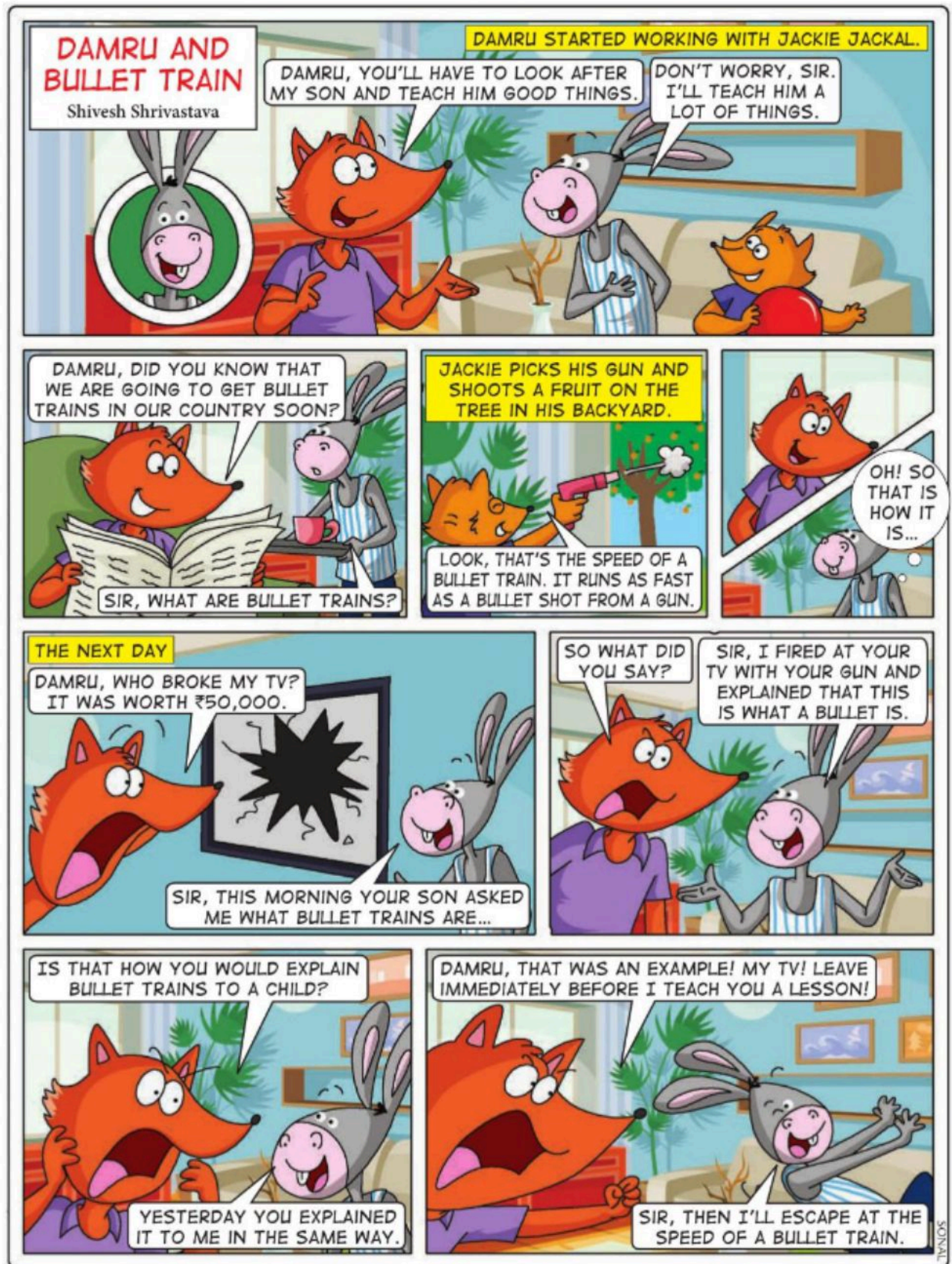


# Colour Me

October 21  
is Apple  
Day.








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An illustration of a young girl with short brown hair and glasses, wearing a green sleeveless top, sitting at a wooden desk in a library. She is reading an open book. A desk lamp with a yellow light is on the desk to her right. In the background, there are bookshelves filled with books, some decorated with glowing jack-o'-lanterns. A window shows a full moon and stars outside. The title 'Who's The Real Ghost?' is written in large, bold, yellow letters on the left side of the illustration.

# Who's The Real Ghost?

Niloy Kurmi

A dark, quiet corner of the hostel library is where Mihika settled down with her book. In the library, jack-o-lanterns placed on the bookshelves and the moonlight streaming in through the glass window eerily lit the room. Gleaming eyes seemed to be lurking in the shadows.

It was certainly not the best place to read a book, that too on a Halloween night. But it was the only place to escape the secret Halloween party being planned in her friend Revati's hostel room.

Mihika did not want to disappoint their

warden Jonita Ma'am by joining her friends in their mischief. So, when she was sent to keep an eye on the warden and the guard while her friends decorated the room, she took it as a cue to escape to the library.

The grumpy old hostel guard, Uma Aunty, had scolded Mihika's friends for stealing ice cream from the hostel kitchen the previous night. She made sure that Jonita Ma'am cancelled the girls' Halloween party.

"But celebrate we will," a rebellious Revati had shouted, and Mihika's friends had cheered in agreement.



Not Mihika, though. She was content with reading an old and battered copy of *Indian Ghost Stories* in the library.

She was reading about a ghost with long hair, fiery eyes and expandable arms, when a chilling breeze blew across the room and the jack-o-lanterns flickered and went out. The moon had hidden behind the clouds and there was stark darkness, except for the glow of the mysterious blinking eyes.

Mihika felt like she was being watched. She felt long shadowy arms stretching out behind her. A shiver ran down her spine. Her breath quickening, she turned around and gasped—a sigh of relief. It was just the shadow of the branches of the tree outside the window, not the ghost from the book that had come to life!

Mihika was about to return to her book when, horror of horrors, a hand extended from behind the shelf and grasped her by her collar! “Who—?” Mihika started, but the other hand clasped her mouth.

“Shhh!” it whispered. Mihika’s heart thudded fast.

The moon peeked from behind the clouds to reveal with its light—a Vampire! Mihika’s eyes widened.

“What are you doing here?” it demanded, releasing Mihika. “We sent you to keep an eye on Uma Auntie and here you are, hiding! You can’t escape tonight’s Halloween party. Come with me; help me get the snacks from the kitchen.”

It was Revati who had dressed up as a vampire. Before Mihika could resist, Revati dragged her along.

The book of *Indian Ghost Stories* was left open. When the moon again crept behind the clouds, the jack-o-lanterns lit up on their own. The shadowy figures with eerie eyes came forward and the light from the jack-o-lanterns revealed a mummy, a zombie, Frankenstein’s monster, a vampire, and a goblin.

“Are the kids gone?” asked the Zombie. The others nodded positively.

They huddled together around Mihika’s book and stared at it. Every Halloween night, these ghosts and monsters came to life from the various horror books in the library. They mingled among the hostel residents who were dressed in Halloween costumes and had some fun with them, without anyone knowing about it.



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They were waiting for the Indian ghosts to join them but as Mihika was reading the book, the Indian ghosts were unable to spring out of its pages.

The pages flipped fast now. Out leapt the woman with expandable arms, the small ghosts notorious for stealing sweets from children, the aquatic creature known to steal fish from fishermen, and the bamboo spirit.

“Now that all of us are here,” said the woman with expandable arms, “let’s have some fun with the kids! Hurry up, we only have time till dawn and then we will have to return to our respective books. Give me your scariest laughs, friends!”

The library echoed with ‘*Muahahaha!*’ Uma Aunty, who had stationed herself on a chair at the kitchen door, woke up with the loud laughter. “Aha! Here come the girls to steal snacks from the kitchen! Today, I am going to catch these little troublemakers red-handed,” she smirked.

Grumbling, she stomped off towards the hostel rooms.

Mihika felt as though someone was coming towards them as she and Revati crept towards the kitchen. She hoped it was not Uma Aunty, who always caught her getting into some mischief with Revati.

Just then, they bumped into someone and



got startled. To their horror, it was Jonita Ma'am! For Mihika, running into a group of ghosts would have been less scary than this.

*Will we be punished now?* she thought, panicking.

"It's okay, girls. I know what all of you are up to. In fact, I would like to join you all too," beamed Jonita Ma'am. "So, how about we have your 'secret' party in the common room?" she asked.

Revati smiled at the proposition, while Mihika sighed—at least the party was no longer unauthorised.

"But don't tell Uma Aunty about it!" Jonita Ma'am winked.



Meanwhile, Uma Aunty was patrolling the hallway when she bumped into a whole bunch of ghosts, who yelled in unison, "Boo! Trick or Treat?"

But the ghosts were in for a surprise. Uma Aunty retorted, without any sign of fear, "Hah! You kids think you can scare me with your scary costumes? Wait till I get my hands on you!"

There was utter chaos and confusion among the ghosts when they found themselves being chased by an old lady. She chased them all into a storeroom and shut the door.







She suddenly heard her name being called out and turned around.

“What’s all this ruckus, Uma?”

“Oh Jonita! Good you are here. The girls were up to their nasty tricks again despite being grounded! But I have caught them red-handed and shut them in here for you to give them a scolding!” said Uma Auntie smugly.

“Nonsense!” Jonita Ma’am snapped at her. “All the girls are with me in the common room. I let them have their Halloween party there. We should not be so hard on

them. Now calm down and come join us!” she said while leaving.

A baffled Uma Auntie turned towards the storeroom. If all the girls were in the common room, who did she just shut inside?

She gulped and peeped inside. It was dark. She went in to have a proper look. The door creaked, and with a sudden thud, closed behind her.

Uma auntie’s shriek was drowned by the loud cheer of “Trick or Treat” by the girls in the common room, followed by an evil laughter echoing in the air “Muahahaha”●



# Halloween Hunt

Find 10 scary things in the store to scare off your friends.



\* Answer on the last page.





**Q. What do the shopkeepers sell in a fish market?**

**A. They sell fish and shellfish.**

**Jeffrin Samuel D,**  
8 years, Tamil Nadu

**Arnav: Rahul, what is your favourite exercise?**

**Rahul: Extra fries.**

**Ansh Kariya,**  
7 years, Pune

**Maya: What has four fingers and one thumb but still not alive?**

**Neetu: I don't know.**

**Maya: Gloves.**

**Aarna Khandelia,**  
8 years, Azamgarh

**Samarth: Arjun, how do you go to school everyday?**

**Arjun: I have my own bus!**

**Samarth: You have your own bus?**

**Arjun: Yes, it's bus number 11. You also have the same. Everyone has it.**

**Arjun Arora,**  
10 years, New Delhi

**Q: What do we call a caveman's fart?**

**A: A blast from the past!**

**Ayansh Aggarwal,**  
9 years, Delhi



**Son: Why is the river rich?**  
**Father: I don't no**  
**Son: Because it has two banks.**

**Rithun A,**  
10 years, Tamil Nadu

**Rahul: What is the king of the geometry set?**

**Rita: I don't know.**

**Rahul: The ruler.**

**Dhvanit Vaishnav,**  
7 years, Surat

**Q. Why are teddy bears never hungry?**

**A. Because they are always stuffed.**

**Saanvi jain,**  
9 years, Faridabad

**Father: Son, why did you sleep in the examination hall?**

**Son: Father, you have taught me once that if the question is difficult to answer don't waste your time do something else...so I went to sleep.**

**Pratyush Gautam**  
10 years, Jaipur



**An employee joined a new office. He worked very hard on his first day. The manager asked him to stay late on the first day. The employee said, "The keys of the keyboards are not in order. After letter A there is an S. I am working to rearrange all the keys." The manager was shocked.**

**Kiyan Saraf,**  
9 years, Pune

**Teacher: Dear students, have a nice holiday and come back with an open mind.**

**Students: Ma'am, you should not come.**

**Vidita,**  
8 years, Gurugram

**Q: What phone never rings?**  
**A: A saxo-phone!**

**Dhara Ranjan,**  
8 years, Mumbai

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# FLOATING FORKS

See how two forks can be balanced on the tip of a toothpick!



## Stuff

- Two forks
- Two toothpicks
- A bottle with water
- Eraser



## Do

1. Fix a toothpick to the eraser by piercing it in the centre with the blunt end of the toothpick. Place the eraser on top of the bottle.



2. Take two forks and interlock them tightly as shown.

3. Insert the pointed end of the second toothpick through the interlocked forks.



4. Lift the forks using the toothpick and place its blunt end on top of the pointed end of the toothpick attached to the eraser.

## Think about it

**Why didn't the forks fall off the toothpick?**

For an object to be balanced, the weight must be equally distributed on both sides. For example, you can easily balance a ruler on your finger tip by identifying the half-way mark. If one side is longer than the other, the ruler will fall. This half-way mark is called the centre of gravity—the point where the object's mass is concentrated and can be used to balance it.

In this experiment, the centre of gravity for the two forks is on the point where it is interlocked because that is where the mass is concentrated. When the toothpick is inserted at that point, and placed on the second toothpick, the centre of gravity of the entire structure shifts to the toothpick, because of which it stays balanced without toppling.

## Let's Find Out

**How important is the centre of gravity in the design of a vehicle?**

While designing a vehicle, the centre of gravity is kept in mind so as to ensure the safety and efficiency of a vehicle. In cars, the centre of balance is kept low to prevent them from toppling over on their sides when taking sharp turns.

## See

When you place the toothpick with the forks attached to it on top of the other toothpick, it does not fall! The entire construct balances on the tip of the second toothpick.







## Who am I?

1. I am green on top and orange on the bottom  
But I am not a flag that's upside-down  
I am a tasty treat for you and many rabbits  
And I grow underground.  
**Who Am I?**
2. I have a metal roof and a glass wall,  
I burn and burn but never fall.  
**Who Am I?**
3. I am one in every corner,  
But two in all rooms,  
I am found in the ocean, but not in the sea,  
**Who Am I?**
4. I am stolen by the ones who love you the most,  
And become the biggest when you're kind,  
I break when you're sad or hurt,  
What's my name, can you find?  
**Who Am I?**

Answers: Who am I?  
1. Carrot 2. Lantern 3. The letter 'O'  
4. Heart

## How Much Do You Know?



1. What is a group of tigers called?  
A) Pride  
B) Cub  
C) School  
D) Ambush
2. Which famous website was established on February 14?  
A) Google  
B) Facebook  
C) YouTube  
D) Myspace
3. What is a female donkey called?  
A) Jenny  
B) Fawn  
C) Mare  
D) Eve
4. In the famous book by Roald Dahl, what kind of a factory does Willy Wonka own?  
A) Toothpaste  
B) Chocolate  
C) Ice Cream  
D) Clothes

Answers: How Much Do You Know?  
1. D 2. C 3. A 4. B



# ADI AND RAMLILA

Ashima Kaushik

“A di, wait! Where are you going so quickly?” Parth asked, trying to catch up with Adi.

“To the auditions. I don’t want to miss anything,” Adi replied, rushing with a sheet of paper in his hand.

“Wait, but the auditions are tomorrow,” Parth yelled from behind.

“Which role are you auditioning for?” he asked, catching up and offering peanuts.

Adi grabbed the packet of hot and spicy peanuts. “Ram, Hanuman and Angad. Which role are you auditioning for?” he asked.

“I am fine with any role,” Parth mumbled.

They walked to the park, which was empty.

“Where is everyone? They should be here playing cricket at this time,” Adi gasped, “unless the auditions are on!”

“They lied to us!” Parth exclaimed, finishing his spicy peanuts and wiping his hands off the back of his shorts.

Each year the colony children got together and performed Ramlila

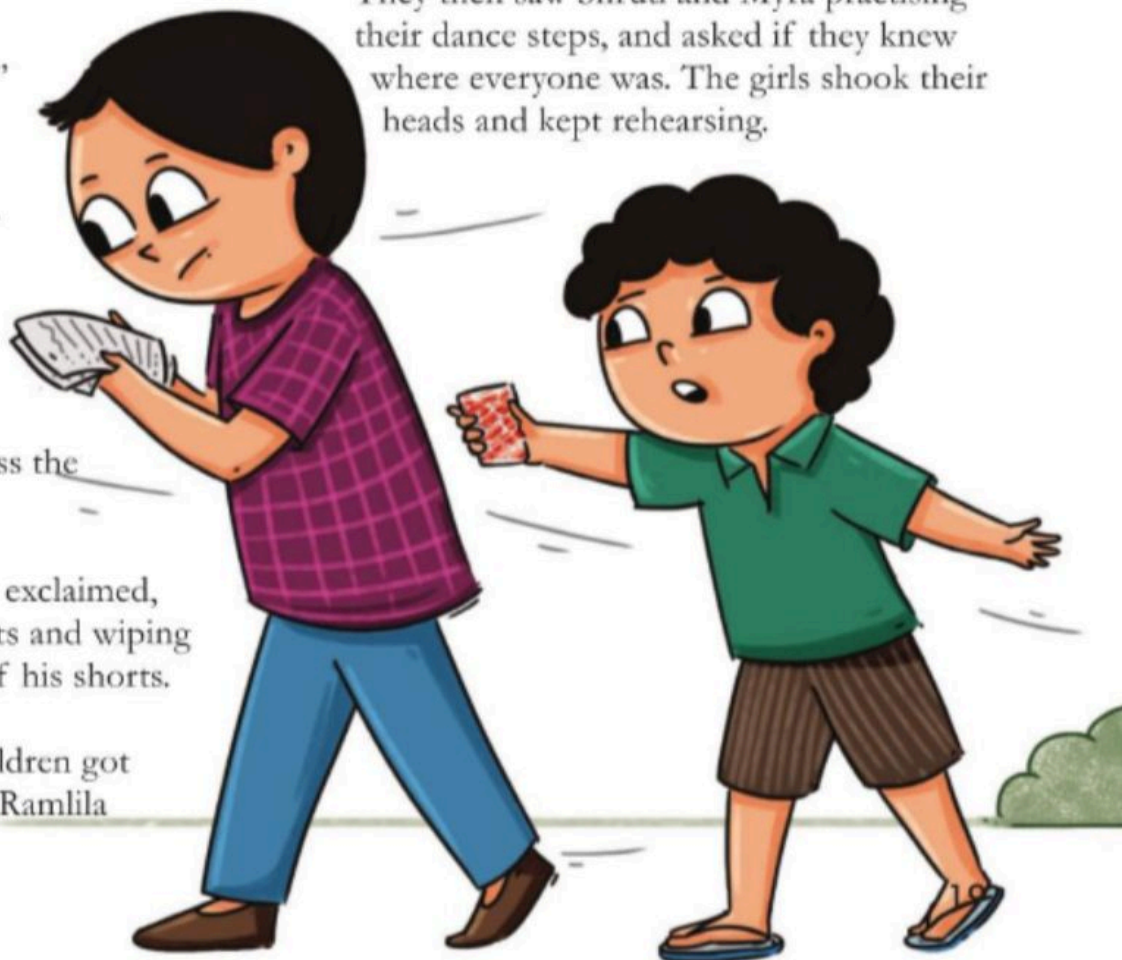
on the common rooftop. Adi had been participating since he was five years old. Each year, he had been getting the role of a monkey in the army, with no dialogues.

Initially, he was happy to get that role. But now that he was 10, that made him a senior actor. “I will not accept that small role anymore,” Adi had decided.

Parth agreed. “Let’s rehearse the dialogues before the audition and get bigger roles!” he suggested.

“First, let’s look for everyone,” said Adi, walking ahead.

They then saw Shruti and Myra practising their dance steps, and asked if they knew where everyone was. The girls shook their heads and kept rehearsing.





“Let’s go to Binni’s place,” suggested Adi,  
“They all could be there on the rooftop.”

“Oh no! That’s Block B, where Jackie is!”  
Parth trembled, “Jackie always barks  
at me!”

“Come on! Jackie won’t do anything,”  
said Adi, grabbing Parth’s hand and  
walking towards Block B. As they  
reached the top floor, they could hear  
lots of voices.

Jackie didn’t bark as he was fast asleep by a  
pile of shoes.

“Of course, the auditions are on, like I told  
you!” Adi exclaimed.

All the big kids were there. Just as he got  
there, Adi insisted that he should be given  
a fair chance just like other actors.

Rajat, who always played Ram, rolled his  
eyes and said, “And which role do you  
think you can do?”

“I can be Ram, Hanuman or Angad!” Adi  
said boldly.

Everyone laughed. Hiding her smile,  
Anokhi, who always played Sita said, “Adi,  
these are senior roles for big people and  
you are still too small to play them. We  
have already decided that Rajat is Ram,  
Vibhor is Lakshman, Jay is Ravan, and  
Aryan is Hanuman.

Adi firmly crossed his arms and said, “I am  
big, I am in grade 5 now.”

Shonali who was playing queen Kaushalya,  
got an idea. She whispered something in  
Anokhi’s ears.

Meanwhile, Adi and Parth auditioned for  
several roles and were told to come back  
the next day. They went back home, where  
grandma had made spring rolls for them.

“These are the best spring rolls in whole  
world,” said Parth, licking his fingers.

Grandma loved watching the kids perform  
every year. She even helped with the  
costumes and curtains.

Adi excitedly told grandma all about the  
auditions. “I wanted the big roles, but I





auditioned for many.”

“No role is big or small. Just do your best in whatever role you get,” she said.

She went on teasing Parth, “You are so lovely, maybe they will give you a queen’s role!”

Parth laughed, picking another spring roll, “I wouldn’t mind that, as long as I get a role!”

The next day, Adi and Parth were the first ones to reach the rooftop. All the kids were given a small chit, and were told to open it when their names were announced, and read out their roles.



Adi and Parth were excited, and were resisting opening the chit and taking a peek.

Ankit’s name was called first. He opened his chit and read aloud, “Meghnaad.”

Eshan got Jatayu. Vipin got Janak.

Parth got two roles—Shatrughan and an army-monkey.

Adi was getting restless; all good roles were going away.

Amar got Mareech and a unnamed army-demon.

Deep got to be Bali.

Finally, it was Adi’s turn. He had got—Shrupnakha, Ravan’s sister, queen Kaykai, and an army-monkey!

“Wow! Three roles!” exclaimed Shonali, “Nobody has ever got three roles! Three big cheers for Adi!”

Everyone clapped and cheered. Adi didn’t get any opportunity to say anything. He was confused whether it was good to get these three roles or not.





When they got home and he told grandma, she seemed happy. She said, "You have so much scope to act. And so many dialogues and scenes!"

Parth nodded in agreement.

Adi's older sister Juhi, who was in charge of the head gears, face masks and jewellery, laughed, "You will do well as angry queen Kaykai because you are angry all the time!"

Adi glared at her.

Samar was designing Jatayu and the golden deer's costume. He chuckled, "And Shrupnakha! I can't imagine anyone doing better than him. During the auditions, I was only looking at Shrupnakha!"

"Huh," said Adi in annoyance, though he wondered, "Do I really act so well?"

It turned out that Adi acted very well.

After the show, Shrupnakha was called to come on stage to enact the scenes again.

Adi enjoyed being in the limelight. Especially the nose-chopping scene with that fake long balloon nose of Shrupnakha's. Kids loved it, they wanted it to be enacted again and again.

"To give these roles to Adi was my idea," Shonali proudly said.

"You can't take all the credit of finding Adi," laughed Rajat.

"Remember, no girl was willing to do the negative roles of Shrupnakha and queen Kaykai and that's when we thought of Adi!" Anokhi reminded them.

"But he pulled off those roles so well," grandma smiled, folding the curtains. "I told you, it is what you do with the role that makes it big or small!" she said, looking at Adi.

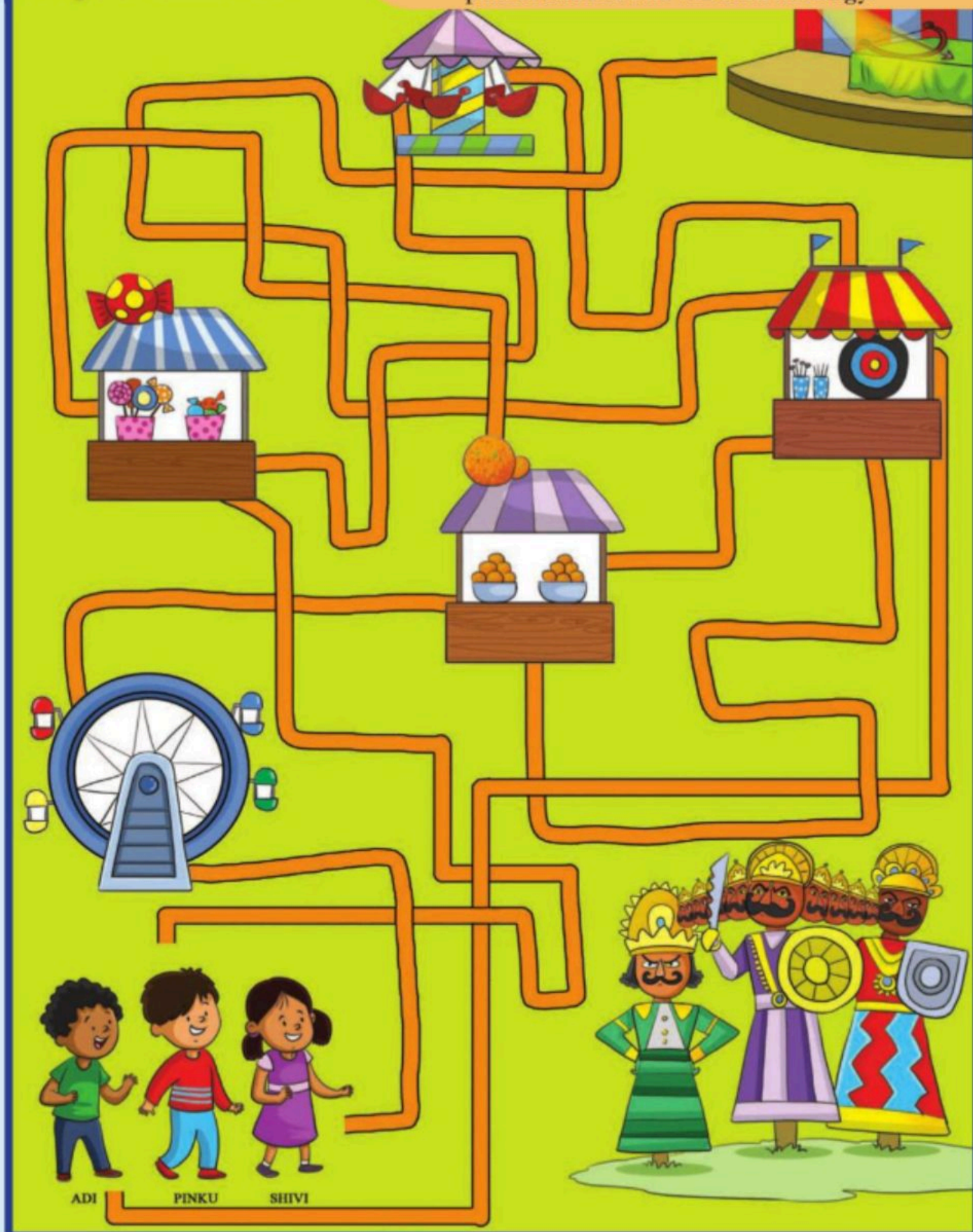
"You're right, Dadi! I had so much fun playing these characters!" Adi said smilingly, soaking in the compliments ●





# Maze

Adi, Pinku and Shivi are racing towards a bow-and-arrow set in a Dussehra Fair. The one who reaches it first will shoot the arrow and burn the effigy of Ravan. Trace their path to find out who will burn the effigy.



\* Answer on the last page.



# That's Not Right

Some things in this picture are not right. Find out what they are.

Navratri is celebrated from October 15 to October 23.





# Twirling Ghost

By Shubhi Mehrotra

# SMART

Halloween is celebrated on October 31. Make a ghost to celebrate this spooky festival and decorate your home.

## You will need:

White chart paper, 1 black marker, ribbon, pencil, scissors



## How to make:



1. On the white chart paper, draw a ghost, as shown.



2. Outline it with a black marker and cut it.



3. Paste a ribbon on the top to hang it.

The ghost is ready!



Try making this yourself at home! Send your creations to us at [writetochampak@delhipress.in](mailto:writetochampak@delhipress.in) or take a photo and send it to us at +91 7042531377



# Cheeku

DAS

LOOK, MEEKU, DODO THE WATCHMAN IS DOZING OFF.

HE MUST HAVE BEEN ON DUTY LAST NIGHT.

LET'S PLAY A PRANK ON HIM!  
YES, IT WILL BE FUN!  
AND IT WILL SURELY WAKE HIM UP!

CHEEKU FOUND A JAR.

WE'LL PUT SOME STONES IN IT, CLOSE THE LID, AND THROW IT NEAR HIM.

THE JAR MADE A NOISE AS THEY THREW IT TOWARDS DODO, AND DODO WOKE UP STARTLED.

WHO... WHO IS IT?

OH! IT'S JUST A JAR! I THOUGHT IT WAS A BOMB!

LOOK, DODO IS GOING BACK TO SLEEP!

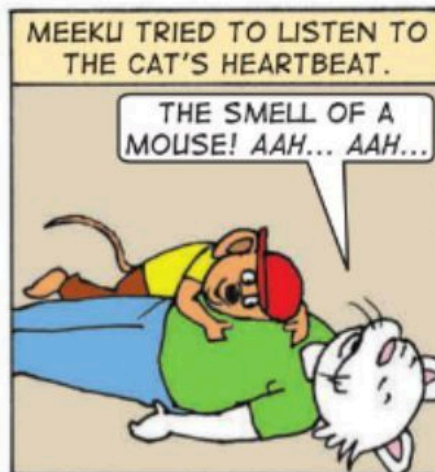
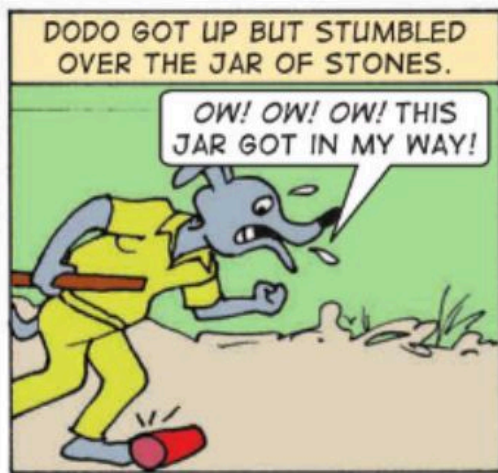
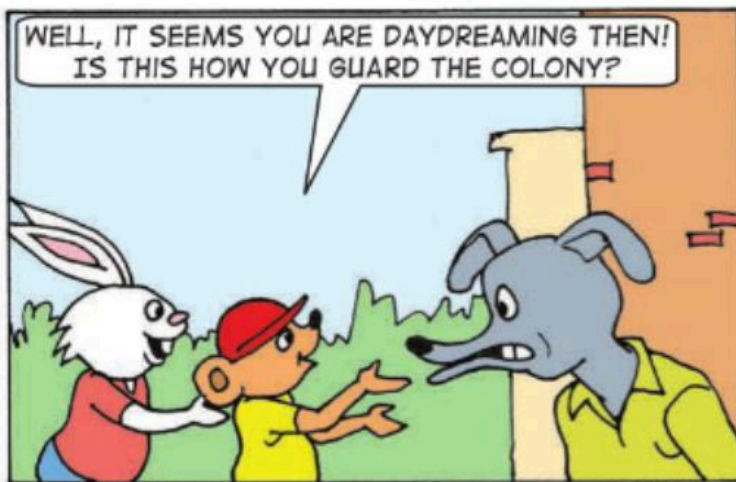
YES, NOW WE SHOULD GIVE HIM A LITTLE SCARE TO KEEP HIM AWAKE! LET'S GO!

THEY APPROACHED DODO.

HEY! WAKE UP! IT'S MORNING!

HUH! IT'S AFTERNOON!  
AND I'M NOT SLEEPING!







October 31  
is National  
Unity Day.

# Dot to Dot

Join the dots according  
to the numbers and  
complete the picture.





# Dress-up Fun

Look at the kids dressed below and find out what the images in each row, horizontally and vertically, have in common.

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9

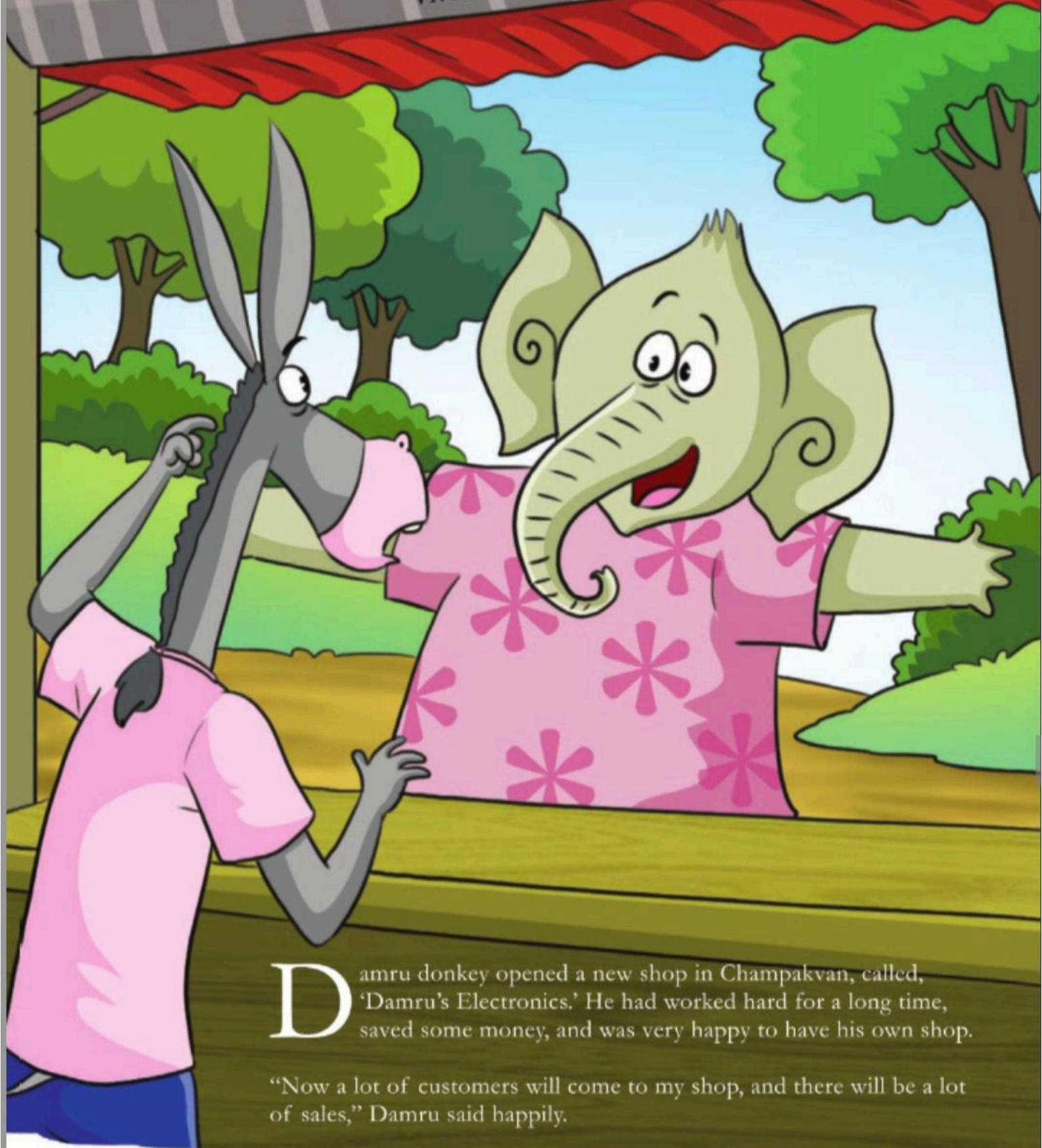


\* Answer on the last page.



# Damru's Shop

Vivek Chakravarty



**D**amru donkey opened a new shop in Champakvan, called, 'Damru's Electronics.' He had worked hard for a long time, saved some money, and was very happy to have his own shop.

"Now a lot of customers will come to my shop, and there will be a lot of sales," Damru said happily.



"Congratulations, Damru! Finally, you have opened your shop. I wish you all the best for your new venture," Cheeku rabbit greeted Damru as he passed by the shop.

"Thank you, Cheeku! I'm just trying to make sure that customers also come in," replied Damru.

"Damru, you are worrying unnecessarily. There are only a few shops selling electrical goods in Champakvan, so your shop will do well," Cheeku comforted him, patting his back, and then left.

Damru soon started cleaning it. It was only a matter of time before Jumbo elephant arrived.

"Welcome to my shop, 'Damru's Electronics.' How can I assist you?" Damru asked eagerly.

"Show me a 56-inch TV," Jumbo said.

"Sorry, but I don't have a 56-inch TV. If you want anything else, I can show it to you immediately," Damru quickly responded.

"No, I have to buy a TV," Jumbo irritably said, and he left.

After Jumbo left, Baddy and Ricky fox came to Damru's shop.

"Damru, give us a black juicer," Baddy said.

"No, give me a red one! Red is my favorite colour!" Ricky shouted, opposing Baddy, and they started arguing with each other.

"Calm down, please! I cannot give you a juicer of any colour because I don't have them in my shop," Damru said apologetically.

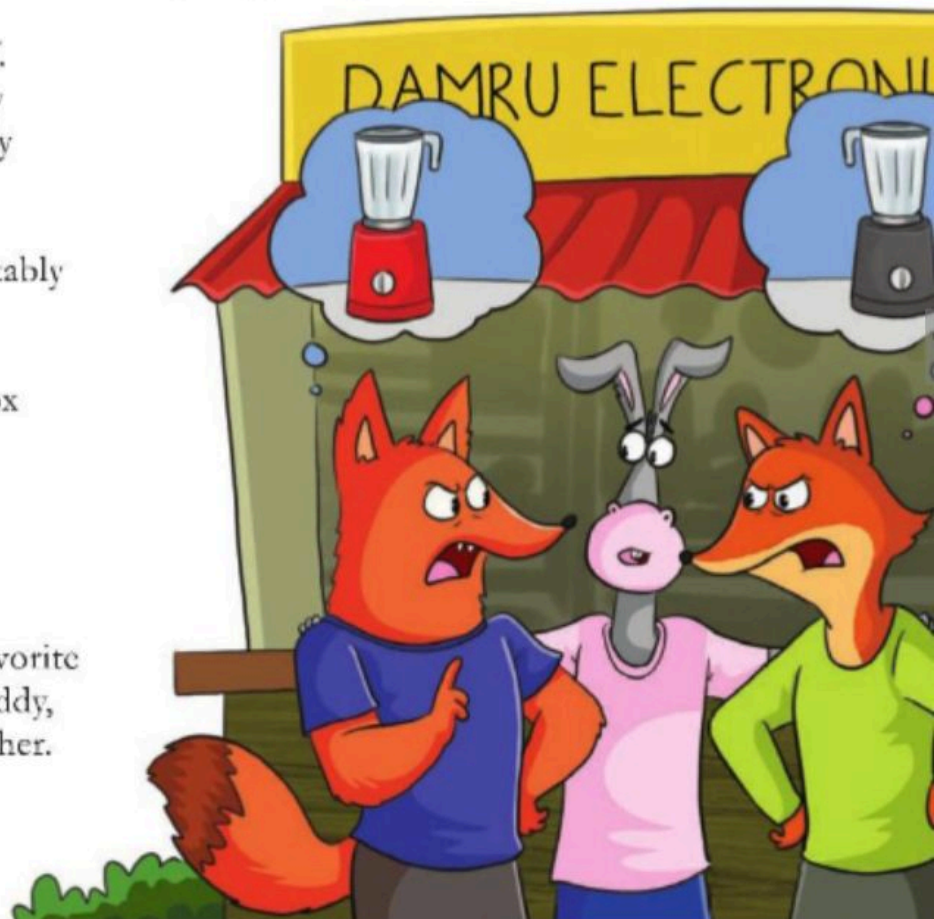
"You should have told us earlier! We spent our energy arguing unnecessarily," Baddy and Ricky shouted in unison at him and left.

In the evening, Meeku mouse came to Damru's shop.

"Damru, quickly show me a big TV. I want to watch tomorrow's match on it," Meeku said.

"Sorry, Meeku, but I don't have a TV in my shop," Damru replied.

"Well, then just show me the latest HD set-top box. The fun of watching the match in HD is something else," Meeku said excitedly. However, Damru apologised again.







Meeku asked for some other items, but Damru didn't have those either.

"Okay, do you have a lock?" Meeku asked irritably at last.

"Yes, I do," Damru replied.

"Well, put it on your shop! When there are no goods in your shop, there's no use in keeping it open!" Meeku said angrily and walked away.

Many more customers came to Damru's shop, but Damru did not have what they asked for, so they got angry and left the shop. Many days passed like this. Damru was disappointed.

One day, Damru was sitting sadly in front of his shop when Cheeku passed by.

"Hello Damru, how is the shop doing?" Cheeku asked.

"Very bad! I'm thinking of shutting it

down," Damru said in disappointment.

"Why? Don't customers come to your shop?" Cheeku asked in surprise.

"Customers do come, but I don't have any of the products they want to buy," Damru softly replied.

"Yes, nowadays new products are coming into the market every day, that's why everyone asks for those. How many products can you keep in your shop after all?" Cheeku said, and Damru nodded silently.

"Damru, by the way, I was thinking of buying some electronic gadgets from the market next month but let me buy those things from your shop today and start you off with some business," Cheeku said encouragingly.

"Let it be, Cheeku. Whatever customers ask for, it's not available in my shop. You will also feel disappointed," Damru said softly.

"Come on, Damru! At least, I will see your shop from the inside," Cheeku said, holding Damru's hand and taking him inside the shop.

Upon entering, as soon as Cheeku's eyes fell on the goods kept in the shop, he burst into laughter.

"What happened? Why are you laughing?" Damru asked in surprise.

"Damru, I have come to know why no one buys anything from your shop," Cheeku said, laughing.



“Why not?” a confused Damru asked.

“Okay, tell me the name of your shop first.”

“Damru’s Electronics,” Damru quickly said.

“Damru, an electronics shop sells things like TVs, fridges, washing machines, but your shop has bulbs, tube lights, fans, and so on.”

“What am I missing?” Damru asked, scratching his head.

“Damru, people come to your shop expecting an electronics shop, but your shop is actually a shop selling electrical items. That’s why anyone who comes here doesn’t buy anything,” Cheeku explained.

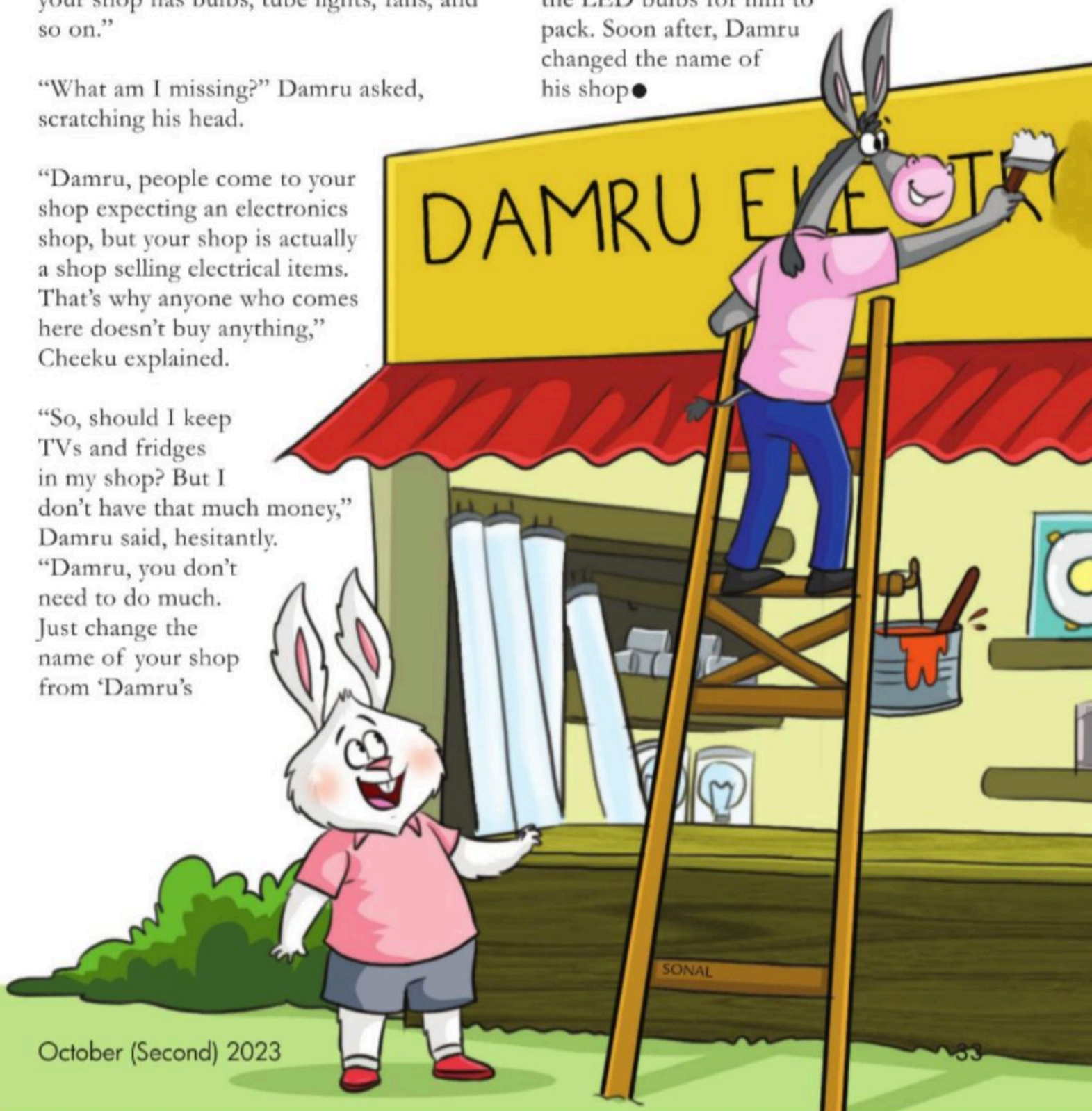
“So, should I keep TVs and fridges in my shop? But I don’t have that much money,” Damru said, hesitantly.

“Damru, you don’t need to do much. Just change the name of your shop from ‘Damru’s

Electronics’ to Damru’s Electricals.”

“Oh yes, that I can do!” Damru said cheerfully.

“Okay, now quickly give me 2 LED bulbs. I was going to the market to buy LED bulbs anyway,” Cheeku said, laughing, and Damru happily started taking out the LED bulbs for him to pack. Soon after, Damru changed the name of his shop●



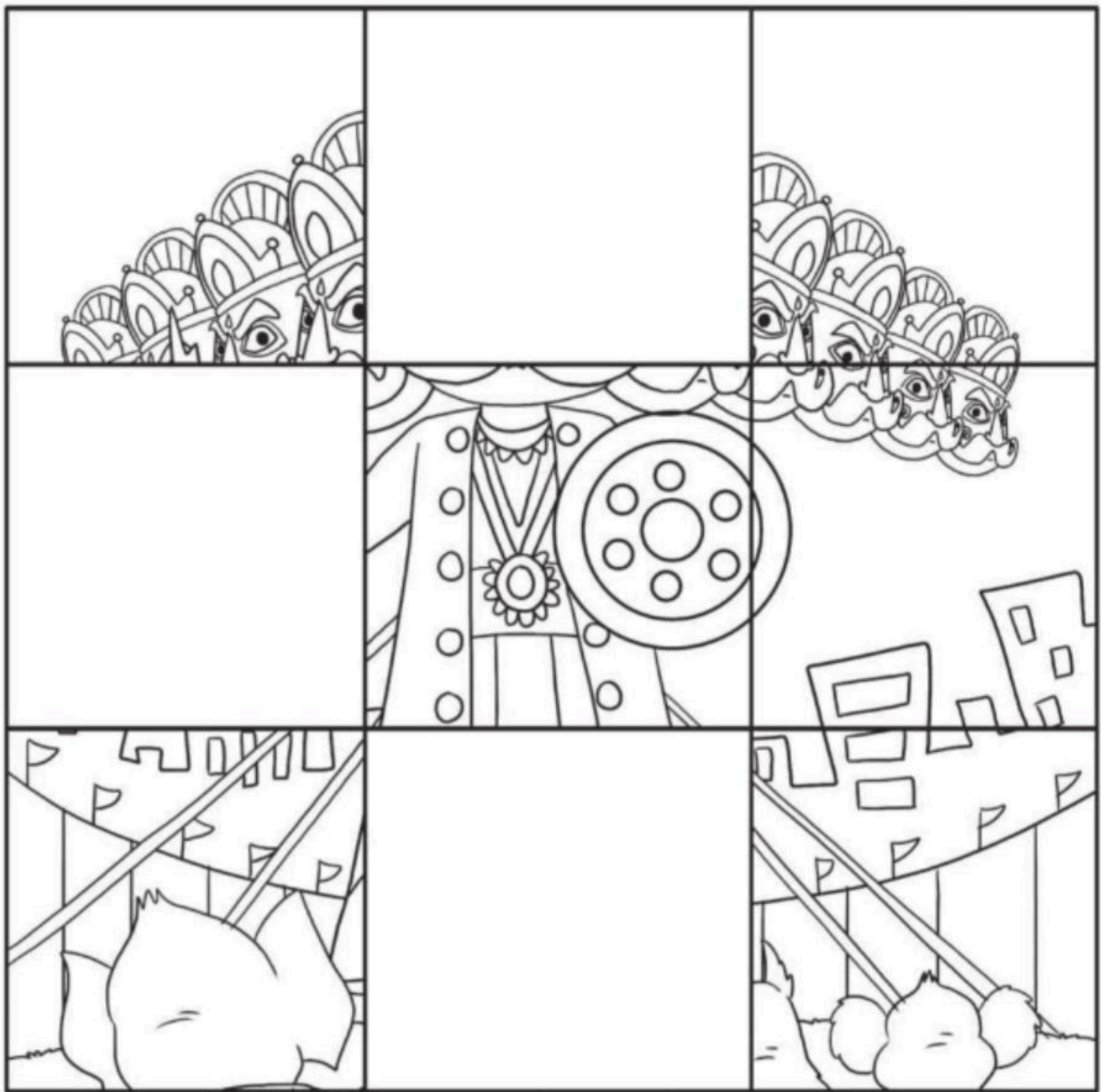


October 24  
is Dussehra.



Parts of this  
image have been  
left blank. Look  
at the picture,  
complete it and  
then colour it.

# Complete The Picture





# Where The Road Takes Us

Niloy Kurmi

Dussehra holidays were about to begin. Samar was listening eagerly as his friends named the places they would be visiting with their parents—the hills, the beaches, and foreign countries.

10-year-old Samar had never gone on a holiday. Until this year, he didn't even have a family. About six months ago, he had been adopted by two affectionate fathers, Coco and Popo.

At his home, there hadn't been a discussion of holiday plans yet. Samar thought to bring it up that day once he returned home. But the class teacher gave them their report cards and ruined all his plans. He scored so low, especially in mathematics, that it was bound to disappoint his dads!

Samar liked to picture his dads as superheroes who always helped him, especially with maths. Just before exams, the Math Stress Monster had sprung out of his textbook, giving Samar

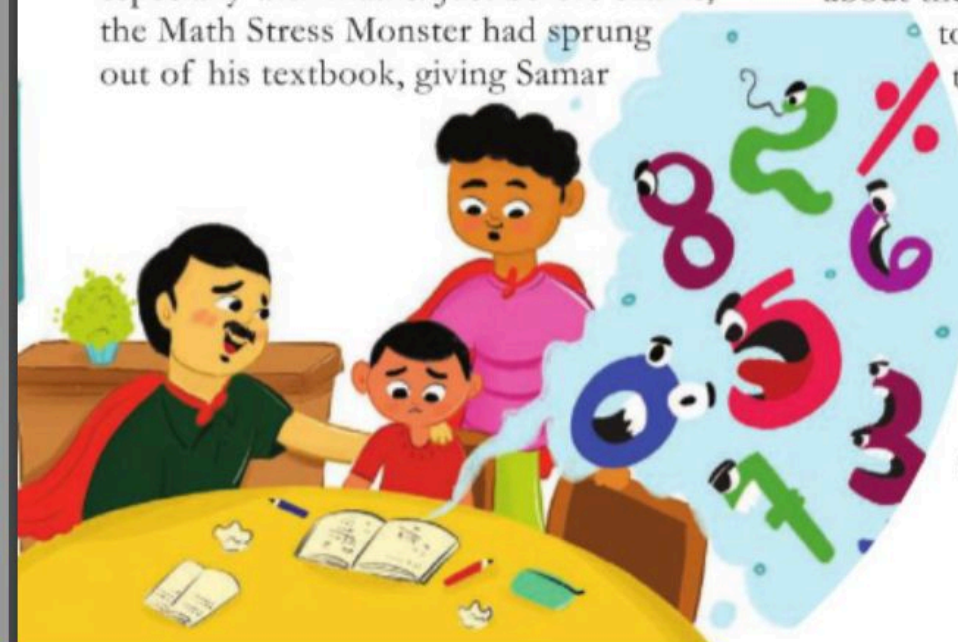
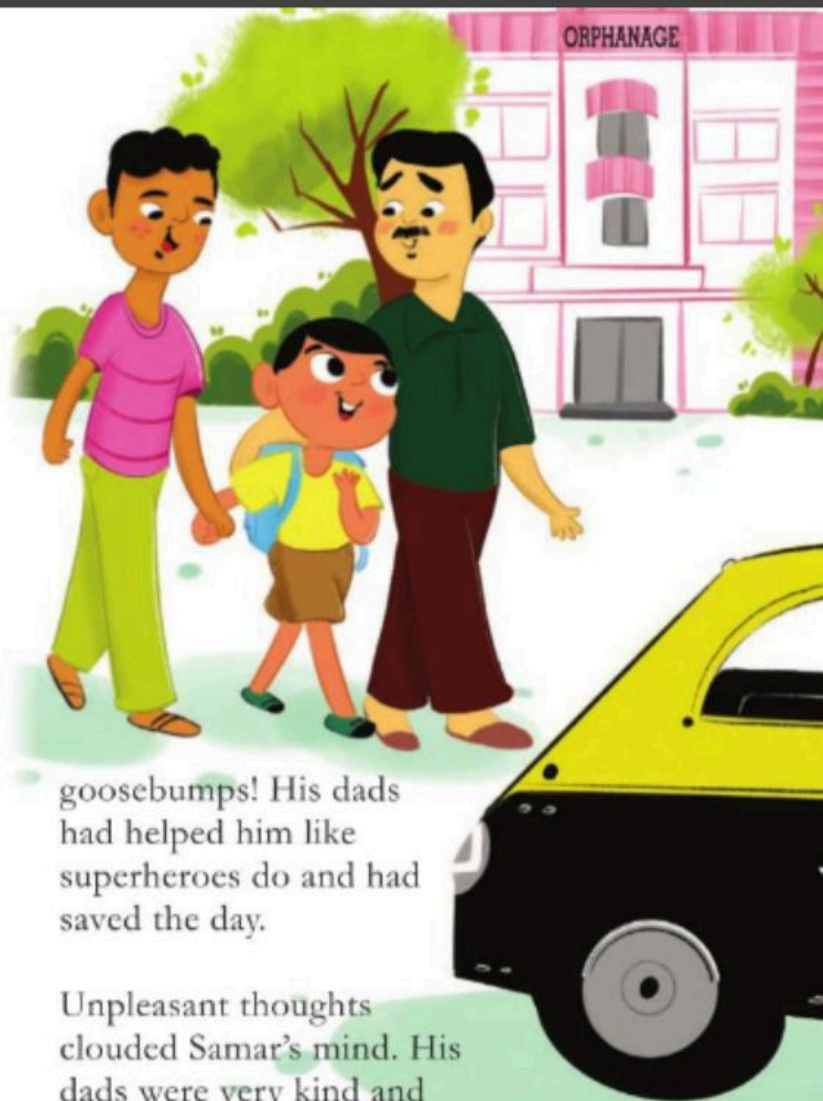
goosebumps! His dads had helped him like superheroes do and had saved the day.

Unpleasant thoughts clouded Samar's mind. His dads were very kind and understanding, *but what would they make of his poor marks?*

For one, they would not want to take him on a holiday now. Instead, what if they sent him to the summer maths camp that his friend had warned him about?

His friend had horrible things to say about the camp, like how kids were made to solve rigorous math problems the whole day and were fed only green salads instead of ice cream! It gave Samar chills!

He thought it best to hide his report card from his parents, at least until they had made their holiday plans. So, he decided to enter his house quietly through the back door.





The back door led to the kitchen, and as he was about to open it, he caught the smell of cookies being baked inside. He loved it when Coco and Popo cooked together.

On any other day, he would have jumped in enthusiastically, as cooking with his dads was his favourite family activity.

But today, he waited until his dads left the kitchen and then walked in gingerly. The cookies, however, were too tempting to be resisted. So, he grabbed a few, but they were so hot that he ended up smacking the tray, which fell on the floor with a crash!

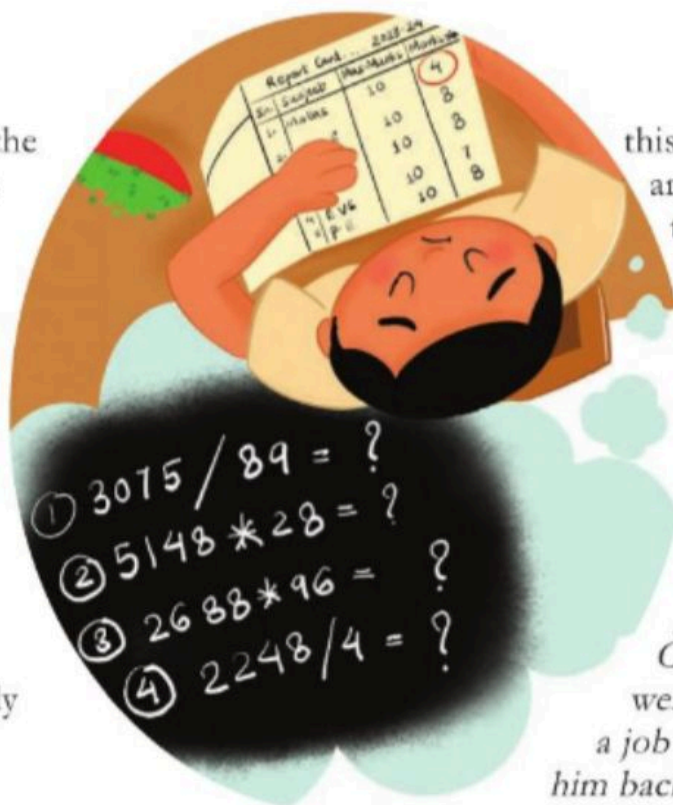
His dads rushed into the kitchen. "Looks like a little mouse has sneaked into our kitchen," Coco teased. But seeing Samar's long face, he asked what was wrong. Samar avoided the question and instead asked what the dads were doing.

"Well, we are packing our bags," said Popo. "And you need to start packing yours too!"

"Where are we going?" Samar asked, hiding his excitement.

Coco looked nervously at Popo. "It's a surprise," he said. No matter how much Samar coaxed them, they refused to answer.

Something definitely seemed fishy! Why



this secrecy? "Unless it's an excuse to send me to the summer maths camp!" Samar realised with horror. *Eeks!* Had they somehow found out about his marks?

*But if that was the case, why were they packing their bags too? Could it be that they were shifting away due to a job transfer and sending him back to the orphanage?*

He had been such a spoilt kid, after all, always creating a mess like he just did with the cookies!

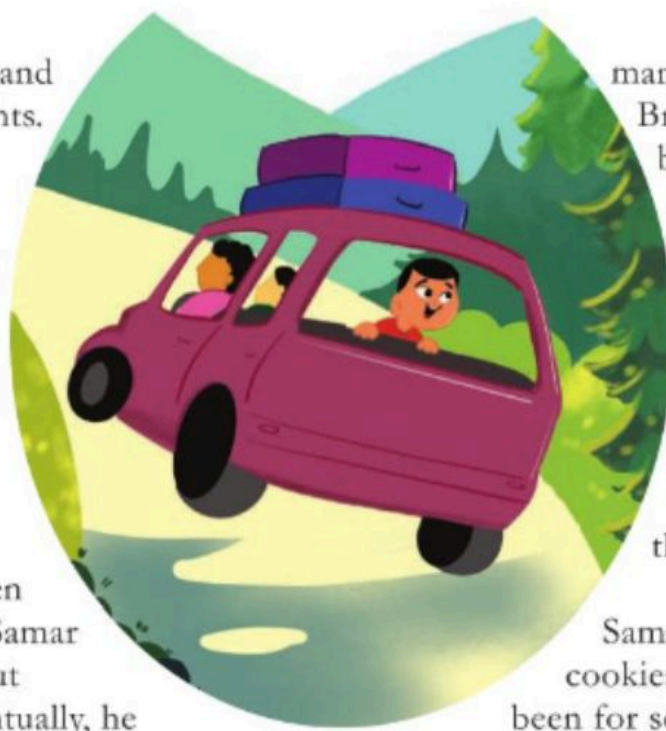




Samar shook his head and dismissed these thoughts. They were definitely not going to do that. He loved his family, and they loved him too—there was no doubt about it. The thought of being separated from them was unbearable!

The next morning, even as they sat in the car, Samar remained clueless about their destination. Eventually, he decided to just enjoy the journey and see where the road took them. As long as he was with his dads, it had got to be fun. That's what Coco had taught him about maths too—he should enjoy the process of solving the problem, and not just focus on getting the answer right. This suddenly made him remember his marks and he became sad.

From Guwahati towards Upper Assam, through the Burha Pahar hills of Kaziranga, and across the



many tributaries of Brahmaputra, it was a beautiful drive. They stopped at a town to buy some sweets.

"This is to make up for the cookies you destroyed yesterday," explained Coco, getting back into the car.

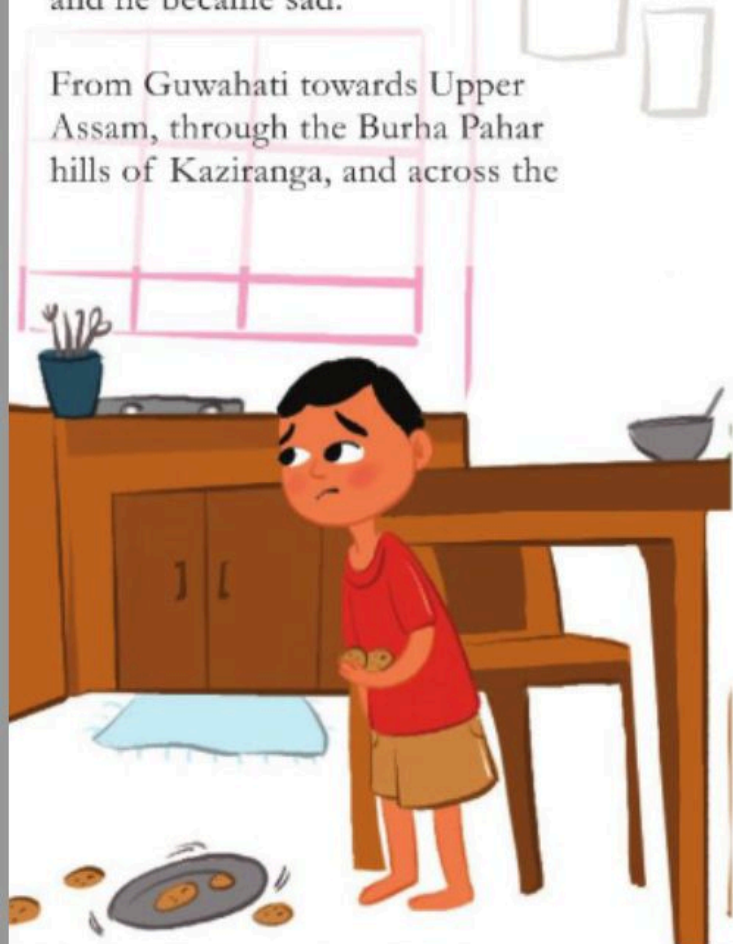
Samar felt guilty about the cookies and asked if they had been for someone special. It was only then that Coco finally let the cat out of the bag. "We are going to visit my parents, Samar. I mean your grandparents, *Koka* and *Aita*!"

Coco didn't know how to explain to Samar that he was not as close to his parents. Coco rarely called his parents and they hadn't met for a long time.

It was going to be a surprise visit, so Coco wasn't sure if his parents would welcome him. He didn't want Samar to get worried, so he and Popo decided to keep the matter a secret.

Samar felt a mix of excitement and anxiety. He had never met or talked to Coco's parents before—what if they didn't like him? He now understood why Coco had been a little nervous.

"It will be okay, Dad," Samar assured Coco. As they sat in the car, which Coco had parked under the beautiful purplish blossoms of Azar trees, Samar hugged his dads tight.







"You could have told us earlier, Samar," said Popo. "What made you think we would be disappointed? We know you tried your best!"

"Yes, we'll fight the Math Monster harder next time, warrior," said Coco in his superhero pose.

*Koka* chuckled and revealed how *Coco* himself used to be poor in maths. "I had to lure him with the reward of toy trucks to make him practice maths!" he said.

Soon they drove off the highway to a country road passing through a tea estate and the landscape changed to the lush greenery of tea plantations.

At last, they reached their destination, and much to *Coco's* relief, it turned out to be a happy reunion with his parents! They warmly welcomed *Coco* and *Popo*.

What made them even happier was meeting their grandchild, *Samar*. *Koka* and *Aita* picked him up and gave him a tight hug and many sweet kisses.

They had a lot to catch up on. *Aita* particularly wanted to know all about *Samar's* favourite food, so that she could cook that during their stay.

"What about my favourite dish, Ma?" *Coco* asked childishly.

They laughed heartily, but *Koka* noticed that *Samar* seemed a little upset. "What's wrong, *beta*?" he asked.

*Samar* met his dad's eyes and finally told them about the report card and not scoring well.

*Popo* nudged *Coco*. "I thought you told me that you were a topper in maths, huh?"

As they all laughed heartily, *Samar* looked at *Aita*, *Koka*, *Coco* and *Popo*—his lovely little family. So this is where the road had brought them—a lovely little village. It was surely going to be a wonderful Dussehra holiday. And he couldn't wait to tell his friends all about it when school reopened ●



SOURMYA TRIVEDI

CHAMPAK



# Find The Food

October 16 is World Food Day. Fill in the missing vowels in each word block and join the letters together to find out the various food items Mohan and Ishita are planning to have on Dussehra.

L	
D	D



J	
L	
B	



S	
M	
S	



D	H
	K
L	



C	H
	K
L	



P	
R	



P	
K	
R	



R		S	G
	L	L	



K	H
R	



B		
R	F	



\* Answer on the last page.



## DADAJI AND NAVRATRI

Vivek Chakravarty

RIYA AND RAHUL WERE PRACTICING DANDIYA.

ARE YOU TWO FIGHTING USING STICKS?

DADAJI, WE ARE NOT FIGHTING WITH EACH OTHER BUT ARE PRACTICING DANDIYA WHICH IS PERFORMED DURING NAVRATRI.

OKAY, I THOUGHT SOMETHING ELSE. ARE YOU READY FOR NAVRATRI?

YES. WE KNOW HOW TO DANCE. ANYWAY, NAVRATRI MEANS EAT, DRINK AND ENJOY FOR NINE DAYS.

NAVRATRI IS A NINE DAY FESTIVAL AND PEOPLE ALSO WEAR DIFFERENT COLOURED CLOTHES EVERY DAY.

DIFFERENT COLOURED CLOTHES? WHY SO, DADAJI?

THE COLOURS ARE ORANGE, WHITE, RED, ROYAL BLUE, YELLOW, GREEN, GREY, PURPLE AND PEACOCK GREEN.

WOW! I LIKE RED COLOR, I WILL WEAR RED FIRST!



NO, RAHUL. THE COLOURS HAVE TO BE WORN IN ORDER.

WHAT COLOUR IS WORN ON THE FIRST DAY, DADAJI?

ORANGE WILL BE WORN ON THE FIRST DAY, WHITE ON THE SECOND DAY, RED, ROYAL BLUE, YELLOW, GREEN, GREY, PURPLE AND PEACOCK GREEN ON THE OTHERS IN THIS ORDER.



DADAJI, JUST THINKING ABOUT SUCH COLOURFUL CLOTHES IS EXCITING. NAVRATRI SHOULD BE HELD EVERY MONTH.

HAHA...BUT DID YOU KNOW THAT THE NAVRATRI COMES FOUR TIMES A YEAR?

FOUR TIMES?

YES, RIYA. MAGH GUPT NAVRATRI IS HELD IN IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY. CHAITRA NAVRATRI IS CELEBRATED IN MARCH OR APRIL.



YES. NOW, DO YOU WANT TO TEACH ME SOME DANDIYA STEPS?

DADAJI, WE WILL HAVE A LOT OF FUN THIS TIME.



ASHADH GUPT NAVRATRI HAPPENS IN JUNE AND SHARDIYA NAVRATRI, WHICH WE ARE CELEBRATING RIGHT NOW, IS IN OCTOBER.



RIYA AND RAHUL STARTED TEACHING DADAJI DANDIYA AND HAD FUN.



# From YOUNG Readers



**Vaishnavi**  
8 years, Chennai

## My Venture To The Moon!

The venture to the Moon is one of my dreams,  
And when I achieve it, I will shine and gleam.

By sitting in my spacecraft, I will  
visit the Moon,

But it won't be possible without a boon.

I will land between two craters,  
But with full heed and concentration.

I will immensely adore my journey,  
Which will be exciting and lovely.

I will hop like a rabbit on the surface of the Moon,  
But sometimes I will fly like a balloon.

Going to the Moon will be my thrilling and  
exhilarating venture,

And also, one of my best adventures.

I will put my Indian flag on the Moon,  
So that every Indian will be proud and cheerful.

**Anay Pandit**  
10 years, Maharashtra



**Ritisha Kuletha**  
10 years, Dehradun

## My Papa is the Best

My Papa is the best  
And leaves the rest  
He loves to eat veggies  
And say no to jellies  
He doesn't eat junk food  
He loves healthy mood  
Papa and me are slim  
We are going to gym  
Papa takes us to different places  
I love to see different faces  
He loves praying  
And gives me training  
He respect elders  
And follow the orders  
He is loving and kind  
And has an intelligent mind  
He cares for all.

**Shreyan Khurana**  
8 years, Gurugram



**Atharva Amol Haldankar**  
11 years, Mumbai





**Devansh M,**  
10 years, Bengaluru

### **Lucy, The monkey**

There once was a girl named Lucy from Spain,  
And she liked growing hair.  
They used to soak her wet in the rain,  
But oh, she didn't care.  
Her mother came and said to her,  
"Please, please, Lucy,  
Stop growing hair; you'll be so hairy  
That you'll become a monkey."  
But Lucy didn't listen,  
And said, "I don't care.  
I'll never turn into a monkey,  
I'll keep growing hair."  
But her mother was right because  
When Lucy was playing,  
A boy screamed out of fright  
And went away running.  
She thought, "What is wrong?"  
And raced to a mirror,  
And what she saw horrified her,  
For she wasn't herself any longer.  
She began to cry and cry,  
Now she wasn't Lucy.  
She had been so hairy,  
That she turned into a monkey!  
Her mother came and said to her,  
"You didn't listen to me.  
Now go out of my house,  
Because you are a monkey."  
So she went into the forest,  
As she was a monkey,  
She wanted to be herself again,  
But she couldn't do anything about it.  
So friends, please don't grow hair,  
And don't be like Lucy.  
Other wise you'll have the same fate,  
And you'll become a monkey.

**Anishka Yadav**  
10 years, Mumbai

### **The Boy**

A boy wondering,  
And a little thundering.  
When he grew up,  
He bought a pup.  
He became a man,  
He made a plan.  
He worked hard,  
Harder than he thought.  
He never lost hope,  
His name was Ope.

**Abhigyan**  
8 years, Ghaziabad



**Alia Singh**  
6 years, Bengaluru

Paper cat by our  
reader,  
**Mokshit Arpit Shah**  
11 years,  
Gujarat



Send us jokes, riddles, drawings or stories with your  
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# Spot the Difference

Circle 10 differences you can find between the two pictures.

October 15  
is World  
Students Day.



## Us and Them

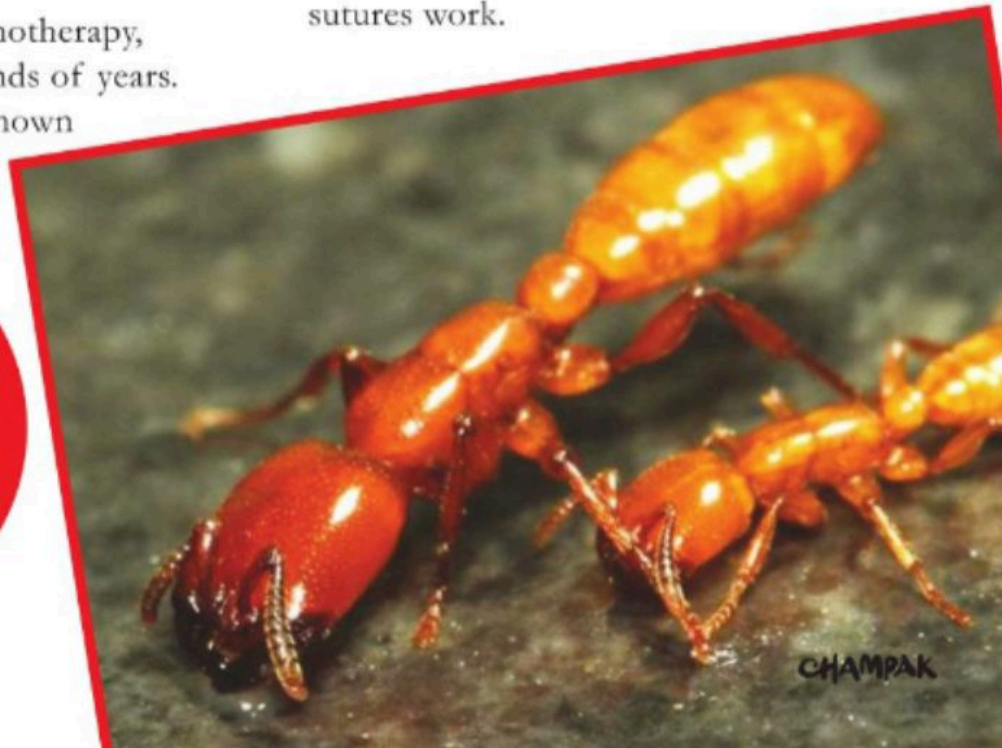
If you happen to suffer a deep open wound on your hand, it is important to seek medical attention and have it stitched up. However, it is interesting to note that in certain communities in East Africa and Asia, there is a traditional practice of using ants to aid in the stitching process.

This practice, called Entomotherapy, has been in use for thousands of years. Dorylus ants, commonly known as safari ants, are often

the ant species of choice in Central and East Africa, as well as some parts of Asia.

These ants possess powerful jaws capable of pinching the skin together. People and emergency doctors carefully select ants from behind the ant's head and place them in close proximity to the wound or cut. The ants then utilise their jaws to hold the skin surrounding the wound together, akin to how medical stitches or sutures work.

Ants have two stomachs. One of them holds food for their own consumption, and the other holds food for them to share with their colony later.





# Journey to the City

Vandana Gupta

**A**nandvan was a dense forest surrounded by the Himalayan mountains. Bobo bear was the king of this forest. One day, Christy crow came from the city to visit. The forest residents warmly welcomed him, but Christy was not fond of living there. He wasn't happy to see how different the forest was from the city.

"How isolated is your way of living! Have

you ever even come out of this forest?" he said with a grimace.

"No, we have never been to the city," said King Bobo.

"That's why you don't know how much progress has been made in the world these days," Christy said. "You don't know what's happening with humans and what they have achieved."





"You tell us how everyone lives in the city," King Bobo asked.

"You should go and see for yourself. I can tell you the shortcut to the city," said Christy, pointing out the way before flying back.

King Bobo immediately gathered the animals and birds of his forest and announced, "We should go to the city and find out how people live there."

Faran fox and Jojo jackal immediately got ready to go to the city.

"Kalu and Balu crows should go there first. They can quickly hide in a tree in case of any trouble. Only after they find out more about the city life will we decide whether it's right for us to go there or not," King Bobo declared.

Kalu and Balu were very happy to hear this and immediately flew on the path shown by Christy. After a long journey, they reached the city.

First, they saw a field where some boys were playing football.

Kalu and Balu sat and watched the match, making sure to maintain their distance from the humans to avoid any danger.

"They are very weak. So many of them are hitting an odd watermelon together, and they can't even break it," said Kalu.

"You are right. Now let's eat something first, I'm very hungry," said Balu.

"But there aren't many trees here. Where will we find fruits?" Kalu said.

Then their eyes fell upon a sweet shop. It had various kinds of sweets on display, and their aroma filled the air. Many people were eating them.

"Look at how beautiful those fruits are! We don't find square fruits in different colors like this in our forest. I will eat them," Balu said, sitting on a plate of *barfi*.





## SWEETS SHOP



"I will eat these twisted orange fruits," Kalu said, reaching for the plate of *jalebi*. Both of them were very hungry. They quickly ate many *barfis* and *jalebis*. A helper at the shop noticed them, picked up a stick, and tried to hit them.

The crows got extremely scared and flew away quickly. They landed on a pillar on the road.

"How weird are the trees here! There are no leaves on them," Kalu said, mistaking the pillars for trees.

"Maybe humans have created these new trees, but I don't like them at all," said Balu.

Then his eyes fell upon the fast-moving vehicles on the road, and he shouted, "Look, Kalu! Look at those colourful animals! They have round legs."

"Yes, some have two legs, some have three, and some are shiny," said Kalu.

"But they run so fast!" Just then, a car stopped, its door opened, three men sat in it, and it moved ahead, blowing its horn.

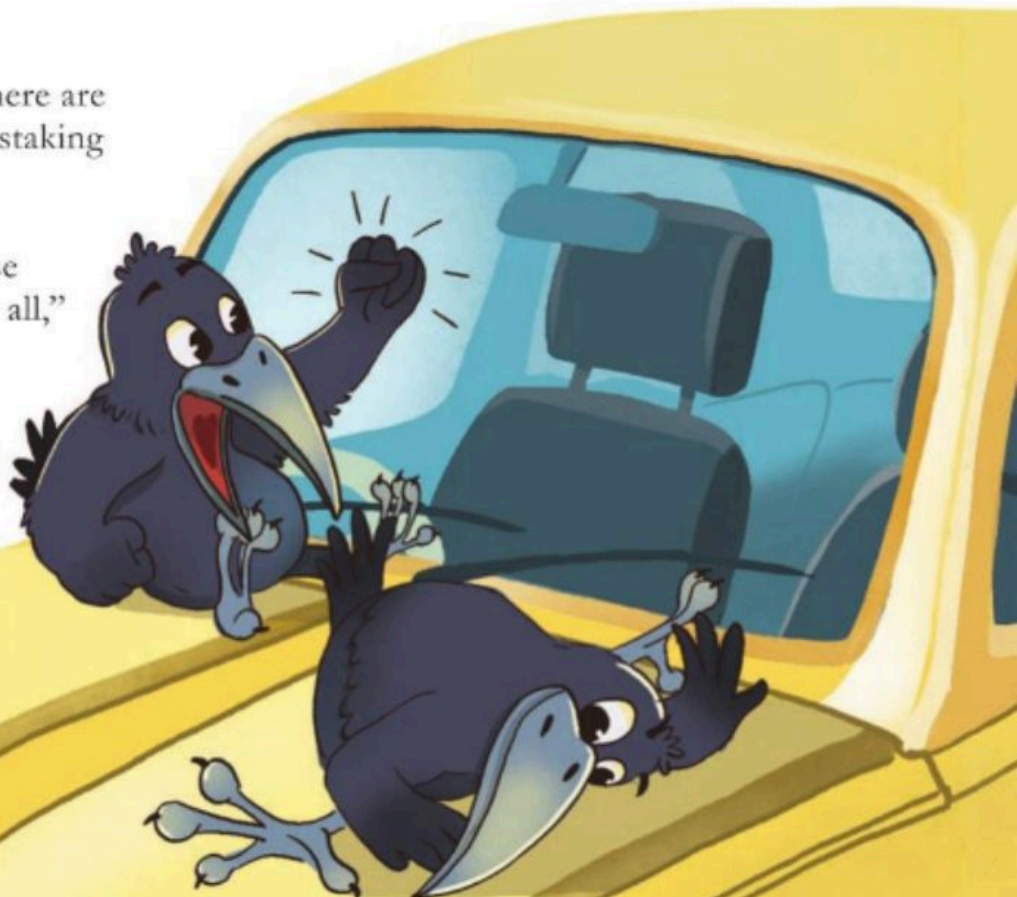
"They opened the stomach of the animal, sat inside it, and went away quickly," Balu said with surprise.

"Yes, he is crying bitterly because of the pain," Kalu became sad. "Let's see what they will do with him," saying this, both of them started flying alongside the car.

After some distance, the car stopped, and the men got out and went away. Balu sat on the car to inquire about its condition and he felt the heat.

"He has a fever. That's why he was crying so much," said Balu.

"Who are you? What is your name?" Balu asked the car several times.







“He is not answering. It seems he is dead,” said Kalu.

“These men are very cruel. They ride these animals until they are dead. They don’t leave them alone even when they have a fever and cry in pain. Come on, let’s go back! This place is not safe,” said Balu.

“We will have to report this and other things to our king,” he said. “Anyway, I cannot take a long flight at this time. My stomach is hurting,” said Kalu.

“I also have a stomachache. Looks like the fruits of the city don’t suit us,” Balu said.

“Did you notice that there are a lot of animals here, but no birds to be seen?” Kalu stated.

After some time, both of them reached a luxurious hotel. There, they saw a swimming pool.

“What kind of pond is this? Its banks



are straight, and the water is also blue in colour,” Balu said, making a face.

“There is no grass or plants here. There are neither frogs nor any fish,” Kalu said, agreeing with Balu.

“And the mountains here are also so straight and colourful,” Balu was surprised to see the hotel buildings.

Just then, a man peeped in from one window, and a woman entered through another door.

“Hey, these people live in holes in these mountains. Let’s go and see how they live,” Kalu said, and both of them went and sat at a window.

A television was on inside. There was a fight scene on one of the channels.

“Look, Kalu, they have kept so many people locked in one box, and they are making them fight! Let’s run away; otherwise, they’ll trap us too,” Balu said,





shivering. Both of them flew away from there.

“Let’s find a place to sleep. If we rest, perhaps the pain will go away. We’ll return to our forest in the morning,” said Kalu.

After some time, both of them sat on the verandah of a restaurant. They could see a man making *dosa* in the kitchen, and they were surprised to see it. Somehow, they spent the night there, and in the morning, flew back towards the forest.

On the way, they saw an airplane flying.

“Look, Kalu, the bird of the city! You were saying that you have not seen birds,” Balu said.

“It flies very fast, and that too without moving its wings!” they said, astonished.

Both of them soon reached the forest.

Everyone there was waiting anxiously for them.

“Tell me quickly, what did you see in the city?” King Bobo asked.

“Your Highness, we didn’t like the humans. They have no strength at all.

So many of them were kicking a watermelon, yet they couldn’t break it and eat it,” said Kalu.

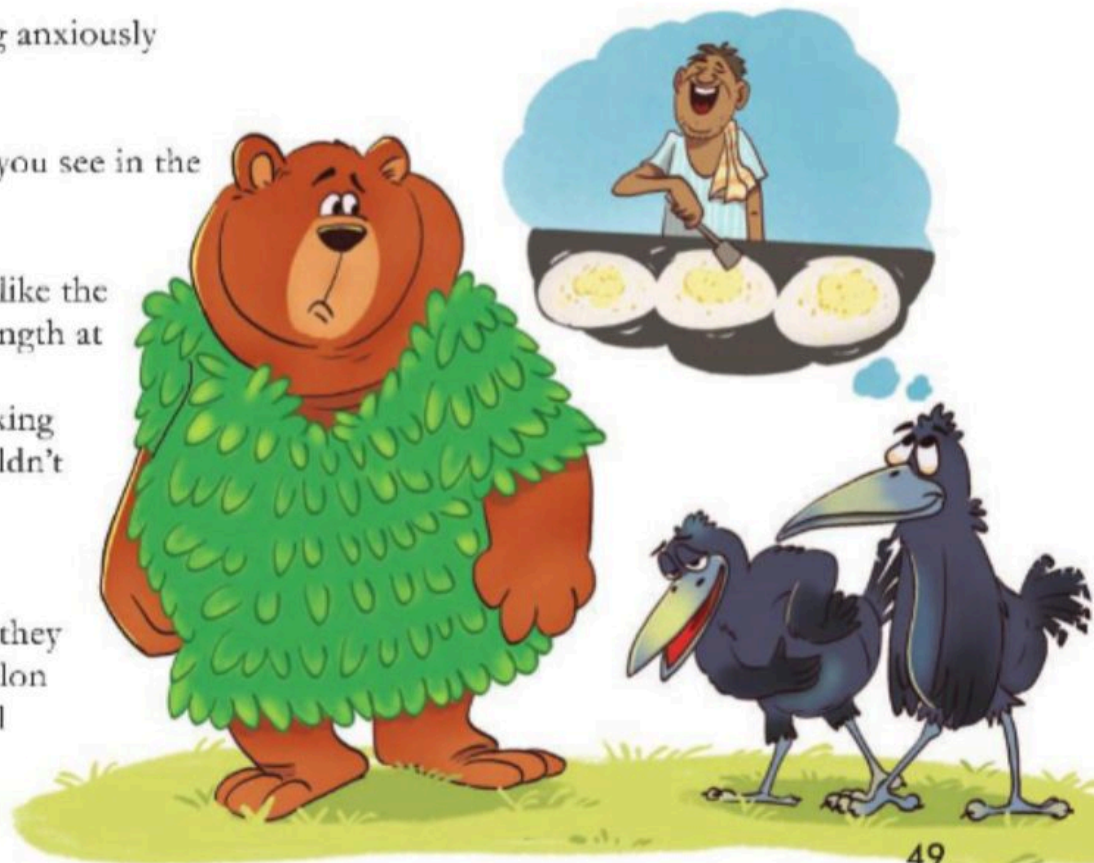
“Yes, Your Highness, later they just picked up the watermelon like that and went away still hungry,” said Balu.

“Yes, the fruits there are good, but what’s the use of such fruits that cause stomach-ache after eating them? My stomach still hurts,” said Kalu.

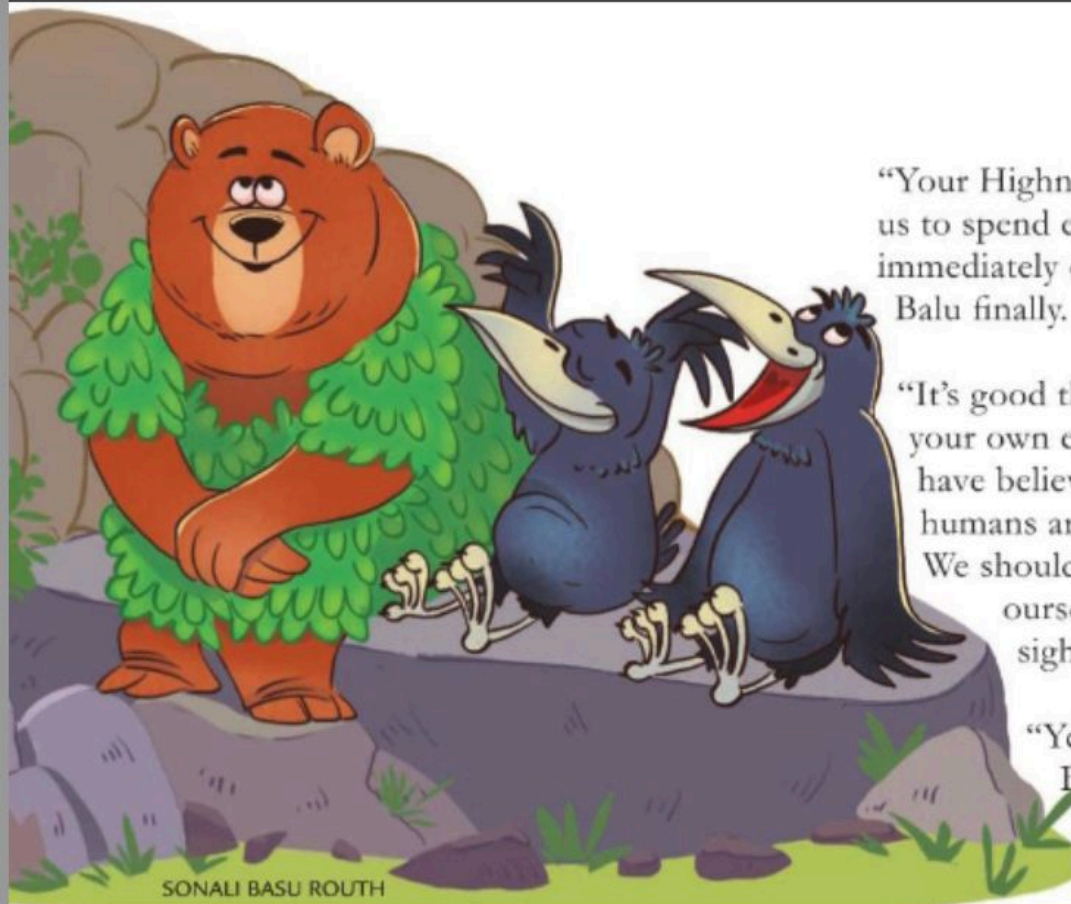
“If someone comes to our forest, we show them so much kindness, but when we were eating fruits, they chased us away,” said Balu angrily.

“Your Highness, Christy was saying that humans have progressed! They don’t even know that milk can be drunk. They spread the milk and give it a big round shape, and when it becomes hard like a dry banana leaf, they eat it.” Kalu said what he had guessed after seeing the *dosa* being made.

“The humans seemed cruel. They kill people by trapping them in boxes. They tie the wings of birds in such a way that they can’t move them. They don’t even think that this way they will fall down and get hurt!”







SONALI BASU ROUTH

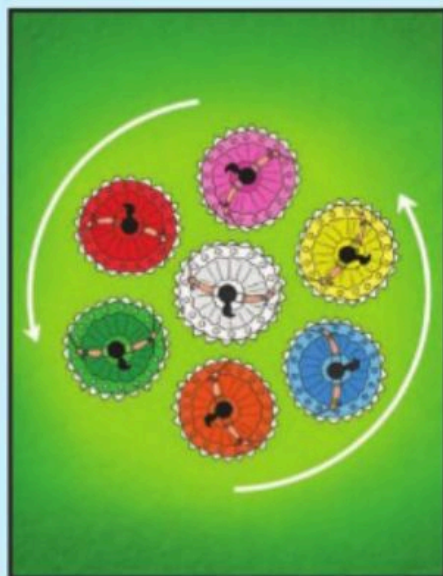
“Your Highness, it was difficult for us to spend even a day there, and we immediately came back,” said Kalu and Balu finally.

“It’s good that you saw everything with your own eyes. Otherwise, we would have believed Christy who thinks humans are more intelligent than us. We should be happy and content with ourselves,” King Bobo said with a sigh of relief.

“Yes, Your Highness!” Kalu and Balu happily chimed, glad they could come back to the fresh air of the forest ●

## Answers to puzzles

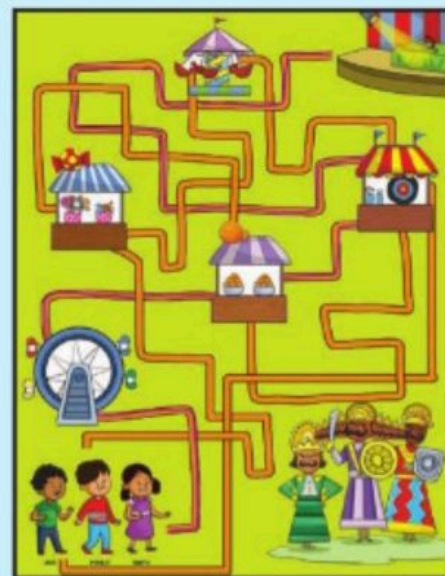
**Page 7: Garba Jumble**



**Page 15: Halloween Hunt**



**Page 23: Maze**



**Page 29: Dress-up Fun**

→Wings	Wings	Wings
↓Starry Night	↓Jack-o-lantern	↓Crown
→Food item	Food item	Food item
Starry Night	Jack-o-lantern	Crown
→Big shoes	Big Shoes	Big Shoes
Starry Night	Jack-o-lantern	Crown

**Page 39: Find The Food**

LADDOO	JALEBI
SAMOSA	DHOKLA
CHAKLI	PURI
PAKORA	RASGULLA
KHEER	BARFI





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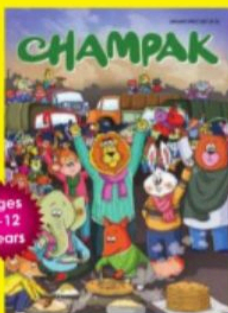
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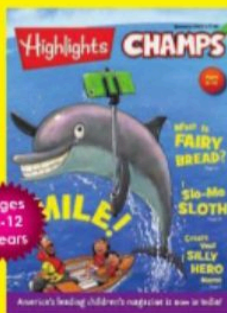


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